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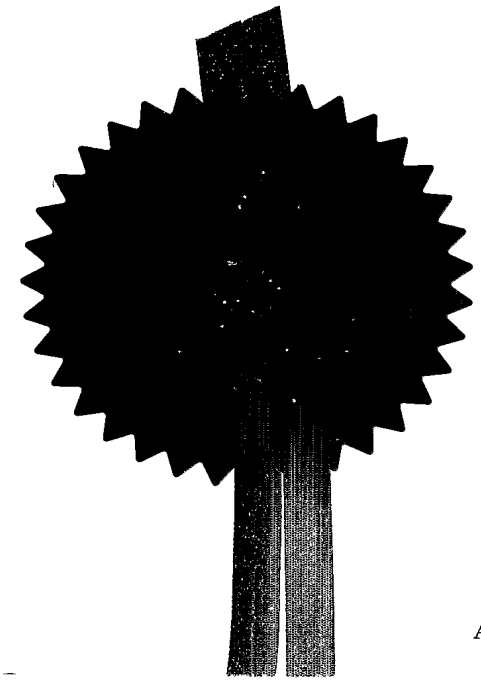

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Dated 9 February 2005

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1.	Your reference	**4-33683P1**
		0405898.8
2.	Patent application number *(The Patent Office will fill in this part)*	16 MAR 2004
3.	Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant *(underline all surnames)*	**NOVARTIS AG** **LICHTSTRASSE 35** **4056 BASEL** **SWITZERLAND**
	Patent ADP number *(if you know it)*	7125487005
	If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation	**SWITZERLAND**
4.	Title of invention	**Organic Compounds**
5.	Name of your agent *(If you have one)*	**Craig McLean**
	"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent *(including the postcode)*	**Novartis Pharmaceuticals UK Limited** **Patents and Trademarks** **Wimblehurst Road** **Horsham, West Sussex** **RH12 5AB**
	Patents ADP number *(if you know it)*	**07181522002**

6.	If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and *(if you know it)* the or each application number	Country	Priority application number *(if you know it)*	Date of filing (day/month/year)
7.	If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application		Number of earlier application	Date of filing (day/month/year)
8.	Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? *(Answer 'Yes' if:* *a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or* *b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or* *c) any named applicant is a corporate body.* *(see note (d))*	**Yes**		

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Description	56
Claim(s)	4
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Priority documents	
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Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent *(Patents Form 7/77)*	
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Any other documents *(please specify)*	

11. I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application

Signature Date

Craig McLean 16th March 2004

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

Mrs S Schnerr 01403 323069

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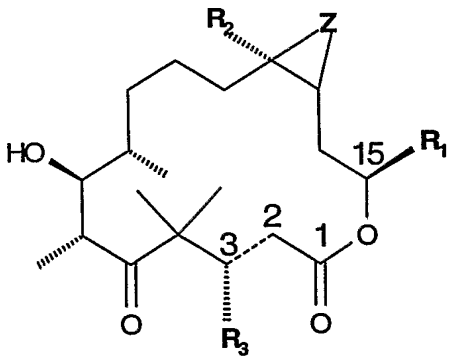
Organic compounds

The present invention relates to epothilone derivatives and their pharmaceutical use, pharmaceutical composition containing the same and methods for their preparation.

Despite the widespread use of Taxol® and Taxotere® in the treatment of many different tumor types, the impact of taxanes on patient survival has been modest, and the overwhelming majority of metastatic solid tumors remain incurable. Taxane treatment is associated with a number of significant side-effects, and the effectiveness of taxanes can be severely limited by the rapid development of drug resistance mechanisms. In view of these limitations as well as the side-effects commonly observed with standard combination therapies, there is a clear need for the identification of novel cytotoxic anti-cancer agents exhibiting an improved overall profile including spectrum of anti-tumor activity, efficacy against multi-drug resistant tumors, safety and tolerability.

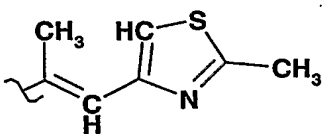
The microtubule-stabilizing effect of the epothilones is first described by Bollag et al., Cancer Research 55, 1995, 2325-33. A suitable treatment schedule for the treatment of different types of tumors, especially tumors which are refractory to the treatment by other chemotherapeutics, in particular TAXOL™, using an epothilone, in particular epothilone A or B, is described in WO 99/43320. D. Su, A. Balog et al. discussed in Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl. 1997, 36, pages 2093 to 2096, the structure-activity relationship of the class of the epothilones. On pages 2094 of said publication, they *inter alia* concluded that a modification of the structure of the natural compounds at the carbon atoms indicated as C1 to C8 results in a major loss of cytotoxicity and of loss of activity in the tubulin/microtubule system. Surprisingly, it has now been found that the C3-deoxy-epothilones of formula I have beneficial pharmacological properties and can be used for the treatment of proliferative diseases.

Hence, the present invention relates to epothilones of formula I

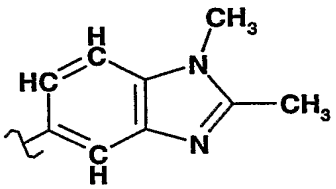


I

Wherein



and b)



;

R_1 is selected from a)

R_2 is lower alkyl or hydrogen

R_3 is OH or hydrogen;

Z is O, C or -Z- is a bond between the two binding carbon atoms;

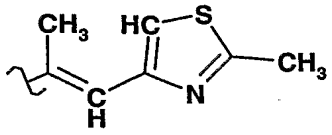
---- is a single or double bond between C2 and C3;

or salts thereof;

with the proviso that when R1 is a, R3 is hydrogen and that when R1 is b, Z is O or a bond, and R2 is methyl R3 is not OH.

One embodiment of the invention is a compound of formula I

Wherein

R_1 is  ;

R_2 is lower alkyl preferably methyl

R_3 is hydrogen;

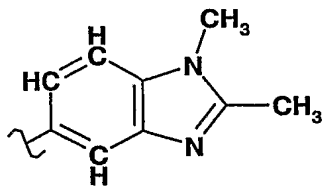
Z is O or -Z- is a bond between the two binding carbon atoms;

---- is a single bond;

or salts thereof.

A further embodiment of the invention is a compound of formula I

Wherein

R_1 is  ;

R_2 is lower alkyl or hydrogen

R_3 is OH or hydrogen;

Z is O, C or -Z- is a bond between the two binding carbon atoms;

 is a single or double bond;

or salts thereof;

with the proviso that when R2 is methyl and Z is O or a bond R3 is not OH.

In a further embodiment the invention provides a compound selected from

(*Z*)-(7R,8S,9S,16S)-8-Hydroxy-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-16-[(*E*)-1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-thiazol-4-yl)-vinyl]-oxacyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione;

(1S,3S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-11-Hydroxy-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-3-[(*E*)-1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-thiazol-4-yl)-vinyl]-4,17-dioxa-bicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione;

16-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-8-hydroxy-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-oxacyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione;

3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-11-hydroxy-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxa-bicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione;

(Z)-(7R,8S,9S,16S)-16-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-8-hydroxy-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-oxacyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione;

(1S,3S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-11-hydroxy-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxa-bicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione;

(*E*)-(7R,8S,9S,16S)-16-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-8-hydroxy -5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-oxacyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione;

(1S,3S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-11-hydroxy-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxa-bicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione;

16-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-4,8-dihydroxy-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-oxacyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione;
3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-7,11-dihydroxy-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxa-bicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione;
(*E*)-(4S,7R,8S,9S,16S)-16-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-4,8-dihydroxy-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-oxacyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione;
(1S,3S,7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-7,11-dihydroxy-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxa-bicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione;
(3*E*,13*E*)-(7R,8S,9S,16S)-16-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-8-hydroxy-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-oxacyclohexadeca-3,13-diene-2,6-dione;
(*E*)-(1S,3S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-11-hydroxy-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxa-bicyclo[14.1.0]heptadec-6-ene-5,9-dione;
3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-7,11-dihydroxy-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4-oxa-bicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione;and
(1S,3S,7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-7,11-dihydroxy-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4-oxa-bicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione.

The prefix "lower" denotes a radical having up to and including a maximum of 7, especially up to and including a maximum of 4 carbon atoms, the radicals in question being either unbranched or branched with single or multiple branching.

Where the plural form is used for compounds, salts, and the like, this is taken to mean also a single compound, salt, or the like ("a" as an indefinite article or as a numeral meaning "one").

Asymmetric carbon atoms that are optionally present in the substituents may exist in the (R), (S) or (R,S) configuration, preferably in the (R) or (S) configuration. Substituents on a double bond or on a ring, for example on the carbon atoms to which Z in formula I is bonded, may be present in cis- (=Z-) or trans- (=E-) form. The present compounds may thus exist as mixtures of isomers or as pure isomers, preferably as pure diastereoisomers.
Alkyl is preferably an alkyl radical with 1 to 10 carbon atoms, preferably lower alkyl, especially methyl.

Lower alkyl is unbranched or has mono- or multiple-branching and is in particular methyl or ethyl.
Salts are primarily the pharmaceutically acceptable salts of compounds of formula I.

Such salts are formed, for example, as acid addition salts, preferably with organic or inorganic acids, from compounds of formula I with a basic nitrogen atom, especially the pharmaceutically acceptable salts. Suitable inorganic acids are, for example, hydrohalic acids, such as hydrochloric acid, sulphuric acid, or phosphoric acid. Suitable organic acids are, for example, carboxylic, phosphonic, sulphonic or sulphamic acids, for example acetic acid, propionic acid, octanoic acid, decanoic acid, dodecanoic acid, glycolic acid, lactic acid, 2-hydroxybutyric acid, gluconic acid, glucosemonocarboxylic acid, fumaric acid, succinic acid, adipic acid, pimelic acid, suberic acid, azelaic acid, malic acid, tartaric acid, citric acid, glucaric acid, galactaric acid, amino acids, such as glutamic acid, aspartic acid, N-methylglycine, acetylaminoacetic acid, N-acetylasparagine or N-acetylcysteine, pyruvic acid, acetoacetic acid, phosphoserine, 2- or 3-glycerophosphoric acid, maleic acid, hydroxymaleic acid, methylmaleic acid, cyclohexanecarboxylic acid, benzoic acid, salicylic acid, 1- or 3-hydroxynaphthyl-2-carboxylic acid, 3,4,5-trimethoxybenzoic acid, 2-phenoxybenzoic acid, 2-acetoxybenzoic acid, 4-aminosalicylic acid, phthalic acid, phenylacetic acid, glucuronic acid, galacturonic acid, methane- or ethane-sulphonic acid, 2-hydroxyethanesulfonic acid, ethane-1,2-disulphonic acid, benzenesulphonic acid, 2-naphthalenesulphonic acid, 1,5-naphthalenedisulphonic acid, N-cyclohexylsulphamic acid, N-methyl-, N-ethyl- or N-propyl-sulphamic acid, or other organic protonic acids, such as ascorbic acid.

For isolation or purification purposes it is also possible to use pharmaceutically unacceptable salts, for example picrates or perchlorates. Only the pharmaceutically acceptable salts or free compounds (if the occasion arises, in the form of pharmaceutical preparations) attain therapeutic use, and these are therefore preferred.

In view of the close relationship between the novel compounds in free form and in the form of their salts, including those salts that can be used as intermediates, for example in the purification or identification of the novel compounds, hereinbefore and hereinafter any reference to the free compounds is to be understood as referring also to the corresponding salts, as appropriate and expedient.

The compounds of formula I have valuable pharmacological properties, as described hereinbefore and hereinafter.

The antiproliferative activity of the compounds of formula I may be proved as follows:

Stock solutions of the test compound of formula I 10 mM) in DMSO are prepared and stored at -20 °C. Human KB-31 and (multidrug-resistant, P-gp 170 overexpressing) KB-8511 epidermoid carcinoma cells are from Dr. M. Baker, Roswell Park Memorial Institute (Buffalo, NY, USA) (for description see also Akiyama et al., Somat. Cell. Mol. Genetics 11, 117-126 (1985) und Fojo A., et al., Cancer Res. 45, 3002-3007 (1985) - KB-31 und KB-8511 both are derivatives of the KB-cell line (American Type Culture Collection) and are human epidermoid carcinoma cells. KB-31 cells can be cultivated in mono-layers using calf serum (M.A. Bio-products), L-glutamine (Flow), penicillin (50 Units/ml) und streptomycin (50 µg/ml (Flow); they then grow with a doubling rate of about 22 hours, and the relative efficiency of plating them out lies at about 60 %. KB-8511 is a variant derived from the KB-31 cell line which has been obtained by treatment cycles with colchicine, and it shows an about 40-fold relative resistance against colchicin in comparison to KB-31 cells). The cells are incubated at 37 °C in an incubator with 5 % v/v CO_2 and at 80 % relative atmospheric humidity in MEM Alpha-medium which contains ribonucleosides und desoxyribonucleosides (Gibco BRL), complemented with 10 IU Penicillin, 10 µg/ml Streptomycin and 5 % fetal calf serum. The cells are spread in an amount of 1.5×10^3 cells/well in 96-well-microtiter plates and incubated overnight. Serial dilutions of the test compounds in culture medium are added at day 1. The plates are then incubated for an additional period of four days, after which the cells are fixed using 3.3% v/v glutaraldehyde washed with water and finally stained with 0,05 % w/v methylen blue. After washing again, the stain is eluted with 3 % HCl and the optical density at 665 nm is measured with a SpectraMax 340 (Molecular Devices, Sunnyvale, CA). IC50-values are determined by mathematically fitting the data to curves using the SoftPro2.0 program (Molecular Devices, Sunnyvale, CA) and the formula

[(OD treated) - (OD start)]/[(OD control) - (OD start)] x 100.

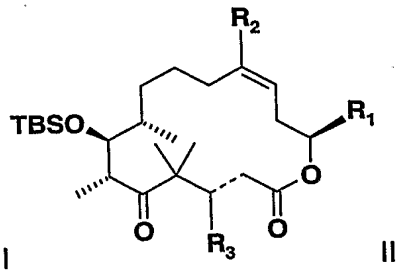
The IC50 is defined as the concentration of a test compound at the end of the incubation period that leads to 50 % of the number of cells in comparison to controls without test compound (concentration at halfmaximal inhibition of cell growth). Compounds of the formula I preferably show here and IC50 in the range from 0.1×10^{-9} to 500×10^{-9} M, preferably between 0.1 and 80 nM.

Owing to these properties, the compounds are suitable for the treatment of proliferative diseases, especially tumour diseases, including metastases; for example solid tumours such as lung tumours, breast tumours, colorectal tumours, prostate tumours, melanomas, brain tumours, pancreas tumours, neck tumours, bladder tumours, neuroblastomas, throat

tumours, but also proliferative diseases of blood cells, such as leukaemia; also for the treatment of other diseases which respond to treatment with microtubule depolymerisation inhibitors, such as psoriasis.

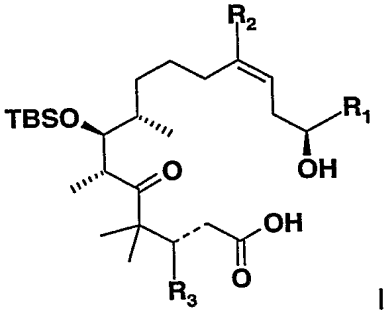
In the following preparation processes for intermediates, functional groups which are to be in protected form can be protected if necessary at suitable stages, whereby selective protection or deprotection is also possible. The protecting groups and the methods of introducing and/or removing them correspond to those named above under process a), especially those named in the above-mentioned standard reference works or, in particular, in the examples. As a rule, protecting groups are not mentioned in the following; the following examples show where the usage of the protecting groups is appropriate or necessary and can therefore be regarded as a preferred instruction as to when protecting groups should be used and if compounds should be produced with other radicals. In the following, protecting groups are not mentioned at all the points where they are appropriately used. The person skilled in the art is clear as to where this usage ought to or must occur.

The compounds of formula I may be prepared by deprotection of a compound of formula II for example by treating with HF in an inert solvent such as acetonitrile.



I II

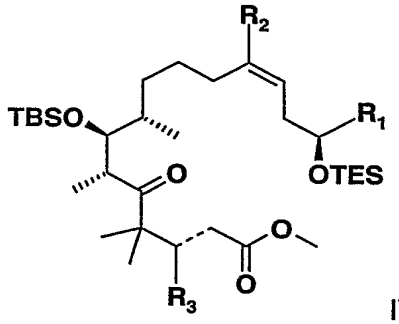
A compound of formula II may be prepared by ring closure of a compound of formula III



III

For example by first treating with trichlorobenzoylchloride in the presence of a base such as triethylamine and then treating with DMAP preferably under dilute conditions.

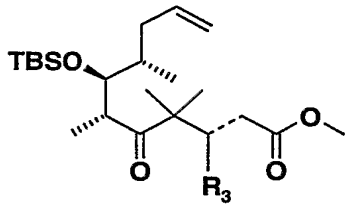
A compound of formula III may be prepared by converting a compound of formula IV



IV

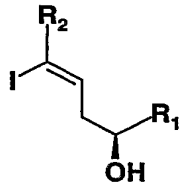
for example by treating with LiOH in a solvent such as *i*-PrOH/H_2O.

A compound of formula IV may be prepared by coupling a compound of formula V



V

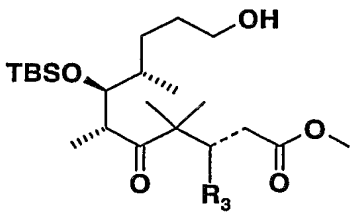
With a vinyl iodide of formula VI



VI

for example by first performing a hydroboration on a compound of formula V with a reagent such as 9-BBN then treating A vinyl iodide of formula VI with the resulting product in the presence of a catalyst such as $Pd(dppf)_2Cl_2$ and a reagent such as $AsPh_3$.

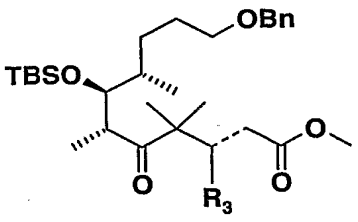
A compound of formula V may be prepared by treating a compound of formula VII



VII

with NO2-PhSeCN, BU_3P followed by hydrogen peroxide and preferably a base.

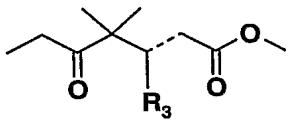
A compound of formula VII may be prepared by hydrogenation of a compound of formula VIII



VIII

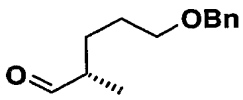
for example using a palladium catalyst in the presence of hydrogen.

A compound of formula VIII may be prepared by first deprotonation of a compound of formula IX for example with LDA in the presence of a base preferably at a low temperature e.g. -78°C



IX

followed by treatment with an aldehyde of formula X



X

Compounds of formula I wherein Z is O may be prepared by first preparing the "13-ene" derivative and epoxidating for example by treating with methyltrioxorhenium in a solvent mixture of H_2O_2/H_2O/Pyridine.

Starting Materials

The starting materials are known, may be produced by known processes or are commercially available, or they may be produced as described in the following:

A compound of formula I can be administered alone or in combination with one or more other therapeutic agents, possible combination therapy taking the form of fixed combinations or the administration of a compound of the invention and one or more other therapeutic agents being staggered or given independently of one another, or the combined administration of fixed combinations and one or more other therapeutic agents. A compound of formula I can

besides or in addition be administered for tumour therapy in combination with chemotherapy, radiotherapy, immunotherapy, surgical intervention, or a combination of these. Long-term therapy is equally possible as is adjuvant therapy in the context of other treatment strategies, as described above. Other possible treatments are therapy to maintain the patient's status after tumour regression, or even chemopreventive therapy, for example in patients at risk.

Therapeutic agents for possible combination are especially one or more antiproliferative, cytostatic or cytotoxic compounds, for example one or more chemotherapeutic agent(s) selected from the group comprising the classical chemotherapeutic agents, an inhibitor of polyamine biosynthesis, an inhibitor of protein kinase, especially of serine/threonine protein kinase, such as protein kinase C, or of tyrosine protein kinase, such as epidermal growth factor receptor protein tyrosine kinase, a cytokine, a negative growth regulator, such as TGF-ß or IFN-ß, an aromatase inhibitor, and a classical cytostatic.

Compounds according to the invention are not only for the (prophylactic and preferably therapeutic) treatment of humans, but also for the treatment of other warm-blooded animals, for example of commercially useful animals, for example rodents, such as mice, rabbits or rats, or guinea-pigs. They may also be used as a reference standard in the test systems described above to permit a comparison with other compounds.

A compound of formula I may also be used for diagnostic purposes, for example with tumours that have been obtained from warm-blooded animal "hosts", especially humans, and implanted into mice to test them for decreases in growth after treatment with such a compound, in order to investigate their sensitivity to the said compound and thus to improve the detection and determination of possible therapeutic methods for neoplastic diseases in the original host.

Within the groups of preferred compounds of formula I mentioned hereinafter, definitions of substituents from the general definitions mentioned hereinbefore may reasonably be used, for example, to replace more general definitions with more specific definitions or especially with definitions characterized as being preferred; the definitions characterised as being preferred, or exemplary ("e.g.", "such as", "for example"), are preferred.

The following examples illustrate the invention, but are not intended to restrict their scope in

any way.

Temperatures are measured in degrees celsius. Unless otherwise indicated, the reactions take place at room temperature.

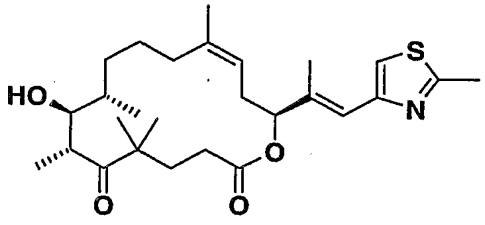
Table of abreviations

HF	Hydrofluoric acid
9-BBN	9-borabicyclo-nonane
AcOEt	Ethyl acetate
AcOH	Acetic acid
$AsPh_3$	Triphenylarsine
Bu_3P	Tributyl phosphine
$Bu_4N(HSO_4)$	Tetrabutylammonium hydrogen sulfate
BuLi	Butyl lithium
CH_2Cl_2	Dichloromethane
CH_2I_2	Methylene iodide
CH_3CN	Acetonitrile
CHI_3	Iodoform
$CrCl_2$	Chromium chloride
$CrCl_2$	Chrome chloride
CSA	(+)-Camphor-10-sulfonic acid
$CsCO_3$	Cesium carbonate
DIAD	Diisopropyl-azodicarboxylate
DMAP	Dimethylaminopyridine
DMF	Dimethylformamide
DMM	Dimethoxymethane
Et_2O	Diethyl ether
Et_2Zn	Diethyl zinc
H_2O	water
H_2O_2	Hydrogen peroxide
Hex	Hexane
i-Pr_2NH	Diisopropyl amine
i-PrOH	isopropanol

K_2CO_3	Potassium carbonate
$KHSO_4$	Potassium hydrogenosulfate
LiOH	Lithium hydroxide
MeOH	Methanol
$MgSO_4$	Magnesium sulfate
MTO	Methyltrioxorhenium
$Na_2B_4O_7.10\ H_2O$	Sodium tetraborat-decahydrat
Na_2EDTA	Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid disodium salt
Na_2SO_4	Sodium sulfate
$NaHCO_3$	Sodium bicarbonate
NH_4Cl	Ammonium chloride
$Pd(dppf)_2Cl_2$	1,1-Bis(diphenylphosphino) ferrocene palladium chloride
Pd/C	Palladium on charcoal
Ph_3P	triphenylphosphine
Rf	Retention to front
TBAF	Tetrabutylammonium fluoride
TBSOTf	*t*-Butyldimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate
TESCl	Triethylsilyl chloride
TESOTf	Triethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate
TFA	Trifluoroacetic acid
THF	Tetrahydrofuran
TLC	Thin layer chromatography

Experimental Part

Example 1 - (*Z*)-(7R,8S,9S,16S)-8-Hydroxy-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-16-[(*E*)-1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-thiazol-4-yl)-vinyl]-oxacyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione (**14**).



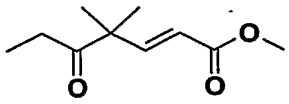
To a solution of **13** (50 mg, 0.085 mmol) in 3 mL CH_3CN and in a Teflon tube is added at rt 0.6 mL of HF.Pyridine (70/30) and the reaction mixture is stirred for 2h at rt. The reaction mixture is washed with a 5% solution of $NaHCO_3$, extracted 3 times with 10 mL AcOEt and then the organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$). Purification by flash column chromatography (Hexane/Et_2O - 90/10 to 50/50) afforded **14** as a colourless oil.

ESI-MS: $M(C_{27}H_{41}NO_4S) = 475.7$, $(M+H)^+ = 476.1$.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 50/50 : 0.61.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) : δ = 7.00 (s, 1H, NC=CHS), 6.60 (s, 1H), 5.25 (m, 1H), 5.15 (m, 1H), 3.70 (m, 1H), 3.20 (m, 1H), 2.90 (s, 3H), 2.60 (m, 2H), 2.30 (m, 2H), 2.10 (m, 2H), 2.05 (s, 3H), 1.95 (m, 1H), 1.60 (s, 3H), 1.30 (s, 6H), 1.20 (d, 3H), 1.00 (d, 3H).

(1a) - Compound **2** :



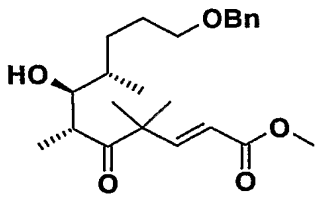
To a solution of Phosphonoacetate (10.2 g, 0.048 mmol) in 50 mL THF, under argon at 0°C, isadded dropwise a 1.6M solution of *n*-BuLi (30.5 mL, 0.048 mmol) and the reaction mixture isstirred at 0°C over 30 min. The solution iscooled to -78°C and aldehyde **1** (5g, 0.039 mmol) in 10 mL THF isadded dropwise in 10 min. The reaction mixture isstirred at rt for 2h and quenched with a saturated solution of NH_4Cl, extracted 3 times with 20 mL Et_2O. The combined organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated in vacuum. Purification by flash column chromatography (Hexane/Et_2O - 90/10) afforded **2** as an oil.

ESI-MS: $M(C_{10}H_{16}O_3) = 184.2$, $(M+H_2O)^+ = 202.0$.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 50/50 : 0.68.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 7.00 (d, 1H), 5.85 (d, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 2.45 (q, 2H), 1.25 (s, 6H), 1.00 (t, 3H).

(1b) - Compound **4** :



To a solution of *i*-Pr_2NH (0.135 mL, 0.969 mmol) in 2.5 mL THF at 0°C isadded dropwise over 10 min a 1.6M solution of *n*-BuLi (0.6 mL, 0.969 mmol). The mixture isstirred at 0°C for

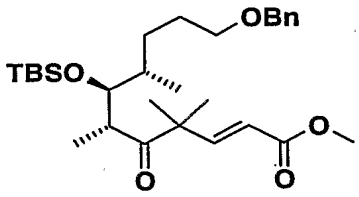
30 min and then iscooled to -78°C for addition dropwise over 20 min of **2** (0.18 g, 0.969 mmol) in 2 mL THF. After 1h, aldehyde **3** isadded (0.1 g, 0.484 mmol) in 2 mL THF and the reaction mixture is stirred for another 1h at -78°C and then is quenched with a saturated solution of NH_4Cl, extracted 3 times with 10 mL CH_2Cl_2. The combined organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated in vacuum. Purification by flash column chromatography (Hexane/Acetone - 90/10) afforded **4** in a 2.5/1 ratio.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 50/50 : 0.70.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 7.30 (m, 5H), 7.00 (d, 1H), 5.95 (d, 1H), 4.50 (s, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.45 (m, 2H), 3.35 (m, 1H), 3.15 (m, 1H), 1.75 (m, 2H), 1.55 (m, 2H), 1.30 (s, 6H), 1.05 (d, 3H), 0.80 (d, 3H).

ESI-MS: $M(C_{23}H_{34}O_5)$ = 390.5, $(M+H)^+$ = 391.2.

(1c) - Compound **5** :



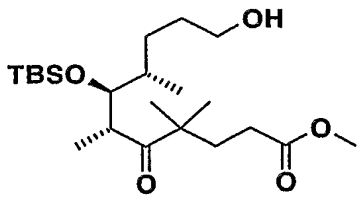
To a solution of **4** (0.4 g, 1.024 mmol) in 5 mL CH_2Cl_2 at 0°C is added dropwise 2,6-lutidine (0.24 mL, 2.048 mmol) followed by TBSOTf (0.35 mL, 1.536 mmol). The mixture is stirred at 0°C for 2h and then is quenched with a saturated solution of NH_4Cl, extracted 3 times with 25 mL CH_2Cl_2. The combined organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated in vacuum. Purification by flash column chromatography (Hexane/Et_2O - 90/10) afforded **5** as an oil.

ESI-MS: $M(C_{29}H_{48}O_5Si)$ = 504.8, $(M+H_2O)^+$ = 522.1.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 50/50 : 0.80.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 7.30 (m, 5H), 7.10 (d, 1H), 5.90 (d, 1H), 4.50 (s, 2H), 3.82 (m, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.40 (m, 2H), 3.05 (m, 1H), 1.70 (m, 2H), 1.40 (m, 2H), 1.30 (2s, 6H), 1.05 (d, 3H), 0.92 (d, 3H) 0.89 (s, 9H), 0.05 (s, 6H).

(1d) - Compound **6** :



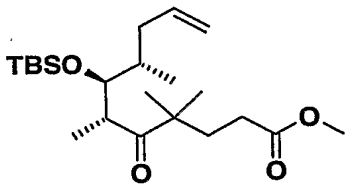
To a solution of **5** (0.45 g, 0.89 mmol) in 10mL MeOH at rt is added Pd/C (0.1 g, 10%) and the reaction mixture is stirred under a 5 bar pressure of H_2 for 6h. The mixture is filtered on hyflo and purification by flash column chromatography (Hexane/Et_2O - 80/20 to 50/50) afforded **6** as a colourless oil.

ESI-MS: M($C_{22}H_{44}O_5Si$) = 416.7, $(M+H)^+$ = 417.2.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 50/50 : 0.70.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 3.80 (m, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.60 (m, 2H), 3.15 (m, 1H), 2.20 (m, 2H), 1.80 (m, 2H), 1.40 - 1.70 (m, 4H), 1.15 (2s, 6H), 1.05 (d, 3H), 0.92 (d, 3H) 0.89 (s, 9H), 0.05 (s, 6H).

(1e) - Compound **7** :



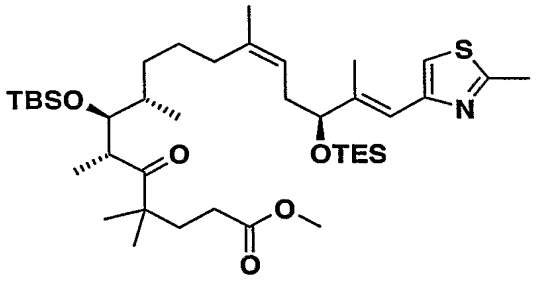
To a solution of **6** (0.35 g, 0.84 mmol) in 10 mL THF at rt is added NO_2-PhSeCN (1.16 g, 4.2 mmol) followed by Bu_3P (1 mL, 4.2 mmol). The reaction mixture is stirred at rt for 2h before the addition of $NaHCO_3$ (2.11 g, 25.2 mmol) and a 30% solution of H_2O_2 (2.6 mL, 25.2 mmol). The solution is stirred for 2 h at rt and then is quenched with a saturated solution of NH_4Cl, extracted 3 times with 10 mL CH_2Cl_2. The combined organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated in vacuum. Purification by flash column chromatography (CH_2Cl_2 - 100 then Hexane/Et_2O - 90/10 to 50/50) afforded **7** as colourless oil.

ESI-MS: M($C_{22}H_{42}O_4Si$) = 398.7, $(M+H)^+$ = 399.2.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 70/30 : 0.61.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 5.70 (m, 1H), 5.00 (m, 2H), 3.80 (m, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.20 (m, 1H), 2.20 (m, 2H), 1.85 (m, 2H), 1.40 (m, 2H), 1.20 (s, 3H), 1.15 (s, 3H), 1.05 (d, 3H), 0.92 (d, 3H), 0.89 (s, 9H), 0.05 (s, 6H).

(1f) - Compound **11** :



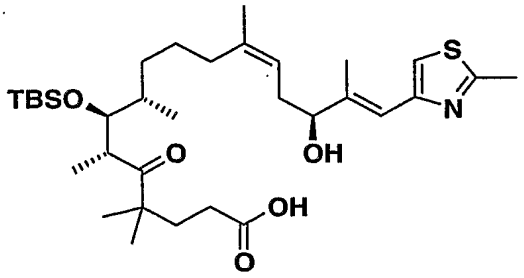
To a 0.5M solution of 9-BBN in 2 mL THF (2.3 mL, 1.154 mmol) is added dropwise **7** (0.23 g, 0.577 mmol) in 2 mL THF at rt. After 2h TLC analysis revealed the complete consumption of the starting olefin. In a separate flask, containing vinyl iodide **10** (0.27 g, 0.577 mmol) in 2mL DMF were added successively, $CsCO_3$ (0.37 g, 1.15 mmol), $AsPh_3$ (35 mg, 0.115 mmol), $Pd(dppf)_2Cl_2$ (85 mg, 0.115 mmol) and H_2O (0.31 mL, 17.3 mmol). In first solution is added H_2O (0.11 mL, 5.8 mmol) to quench the excess 9-BBN and the alkyl borane solution is added rapidly by syringe to the solution containing the vinyl iodide. The reaction mixture is stirred at rt overnight and quenched with H_2O, extracted 3 times with 20 mL Et_2O. The combined organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated in vacuum. Purification by flash column chromatography (Hexane/Et_2O - 90/10 to 50/50) afforded **11** as a colourless oil.

ESI-MS: $M(C_{40}H_{73}NO_5Si_2S) = 736.3$, $(M+H)^+ = 737.1$.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 70/30 : 0.58.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 6.90 (s, 1H), 6.45 (s, 1H), 5.10 (m, 1H), 4.07 (t, 1H), 3.80 (m, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.10 (m, 1H), 2.70 (s, 3H), 2.40 (m, 2H), 2.20 (m, 2H, $CH_2CH_2CO_2Me$), 1.99 (s, 3H), 1.90 (m, 2H), 1.65 (s, 3H), 1.50 (m, 2H), 1.20 (s, 3H), 1.10 (s, 3H), 1.05 (d, 3H), 0.95 (d, 3H), 0.92 (t, 9H), 0.89 (s, 9H), 0.57 (q, 6H), 0.05 (s, 6H).

(1g) - Compound **12 :**



To a solution of **11** (0.22 g, 0.3 mmol) in 9 mL *i*-PrOH/H_2O - 4/1 is added LiOH (43 mg, 1.8 mmol) and the mixture is heated at 60°C and stirred overnight. After cooling to rt, the solution is quenched with a saturated solution of NH_4Cl, extracted twice with 10 mL CH_2Cl_2 and twice

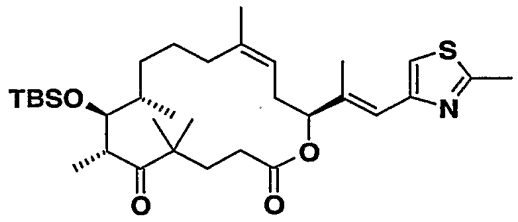
with 10 mL AcOEt. The combined organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated in vacuum. The crude reaction mixture is used directly in the next step.

ESI-MS: $M(C_{33}H_{57}NO_5SiS) = 607.9$, $(M+H)^+ = 608.1$.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 70/30 : 0.25.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 6.90 (s, 1H), 6.45 (s, 1H), 5.15 (m, 1H), 4.07 (q, 1H), 3.80 (m, 1H), 3.20 (m, 1H), 2.70 (s, 3H), 2.30 (m, 2H), 2.10 (m, 2H), 1.99 (s, 3H), 1.90 (m, 2H), 1.70 (s, 3H), 1.40 (m, 2H), 1.20 (s, 3H), 1.10 (s, 3H), 1.05 (d, 3H), 0.95 (d, 3H), 0.89 (s, 9H), 0.05 (s, 3H), 0.03 (s, 3H).

(1h) - Compound **13** : (*Z*)-(7R,8S,9S,16S)-8-(tert-Butyl-dimethyl-silanyloxy)-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-16-[(*E*)-1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-thiazol-4-yl)-vinyl]-oxacyclohexa dec-13-ene-2,6-dione.



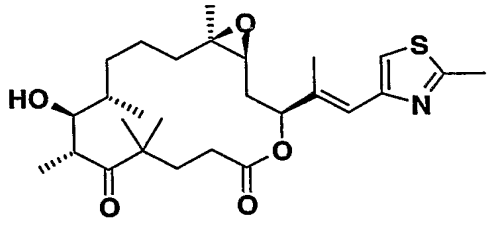
To a solution of **12** (190 mg, 0.312 mmol) in 8 mL THF at 0°C is added triethylamine (0.26 mL, 1.87 mmol) followed by trichlorobenzoylchloride (0.24 mL, 1.56 mmol). After stirring for 20 min at rt, the solution is diluted with 15 mL dry toluene and the resulting solution is added slowly in 2h to a previously prepared solution of DMAP (0.38 mg, 3.12 mmol) in 200 mL toluene. The reaction mixture is stirred at rt for 30 min and then concentrated in vacuum. The crude product is purified by flash column chromatography (Hexane/Et_2O - 70/30) to afford **13** as an oil.

ESI-MS: $M(C_{33}H_{55}NO_4SiS) = 589.9$, $(M+H)^+ = 590.1$.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 50/50 : 0.74.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) for major compound : δ = 6.90 (s, 1H), 6.45 (s, 1H), 5.25 (m, 1H), 5.10 (m, 1H), 3.80 (m, 1H), 3.10 (m, 1H), 2.70 (s, 3H), 2.30 (m, 2H), 2.10 (m, 2H), 2.05 (s, 3H), 1.80 (m, 2H, $CH_2CH_2CO_2$), 1.60 (s, 3H), 1.30 (m, 2H), 1.20 (s, 6H), 1.10 (d, 3H), 1.00 (d, 3H), 0.89 (s, 9H), 0.05 (s, 3H), 0.01 (s, 3H).

Example 2 - (1S,3S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-11-Hydroxy-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-3-[(*E*)-1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-thiazol-4-yl)-vinyl]-4,17-dioxa-bicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane -5,9-dione (**15**).



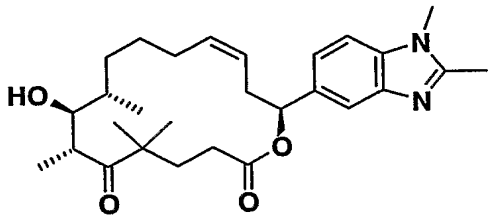
To a solution of **14** (8 mg, 0.017 mmol) in 0.8 mL of CH_2Cl_2 at rt is added a 300 μL of a solution H_2O_2/H_2O/Pyridine - 16/140/1 and MTO (2 mg, 0.0084 mmole). The reaction mixture is stirred at rt for 1h30 and then is quenched with a saturated solution of NH_4Cl and extracted twice with 10 mL CH_2Cl_2. The combined organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated in vacuum. Purification by flash column chromatography (Hexane/Acetone - 90/10 to 70/30) afforded **15** in a 9/1 ratio in favour of desired epoxide.

ESI-MS: $M(C_{27}H_{41}NO_4S)$ = 491.7, $(M+H)^+$ = 492.2.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 50/50 : 0.52.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CD_3OD) : δ = 7.20 (s, 1H, NC=CHS), 6.80 (s, 1H), 5.40 (m, 1H), 3.60 (m, 1H), 3.20 (m, 1H), 2.95 (m, 1H, CH-O), 2.70 (s, 3H, CH_3CN), 2.40 (m, 2H, CH_2CH-O), 2.20 (m, 2H), 2.05 (s, 3H), 1.95 (m, 2H), 1.60 (s, 3H), 1.30 (s, 6H), 1.20 (d, 3H), 1.00 (d, 3H).

Example 3 :16-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-8-hydroxy-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-oxacyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione (Compound **22**)



To a 50 ml plastic tube, equipped with a magnetic stir bar, are successively added **21** (339 mg), 20 ml of acetonitrile and 20 ml of tetrahydrofuran. To this solution is rapidly added HF-Pyridine complex (7 ml). The reaction is monitored by TLC (CH_2Cl_2/MeOH: 95/5) and the mixture is stirred at room temperature for 3h. The reaction mixture is then carefully added dropwise to an Erlenmeyer containing CH_2Cl_2 (100 ml), distilled water (100 ml) and sodium bicarbonate (30 g). The two layers are separated by decantation and the aqueous phase is exctracted three times with CH_2Cl_2 (100 ml). After drying with magnesium sulfate, the solvents are removed under vacuo and the crude mixture is purified by flash chromatography (CH_2Cl_2/MeOH : 98/2 to 97/3) to finally give **22** as a white solid.

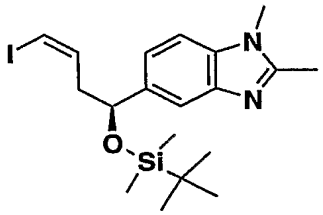
ESI-MS: 468.9 $(M+H)^+$.

HPLC : Rt=7.58 min.

Rf=0.54 (Hex/acetone : 30/70).

^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$/ppm): 7.71 (s, 1H), 7.27 (m, 2H), 6.00 (dd, 3,7 Hz, 1H), 5.48 (m, 2H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.74 (m, 1H), 3.19 (qd, 3,7 Hz, 1H), 2.97-2.84 (m, 2H), 2.64 (s, 3H), 2.45-2.01 (m, 6H), 1.81-1.64 (m, 4H), 1.49-1.16 (m, 3H), 1.30 (s, 3H), 1.21 (d, 7 Hz, 3H), 1.06 (d, 7 Hz, 3H), 1.02 (s, 3H).

(3a)-Compound **17** :



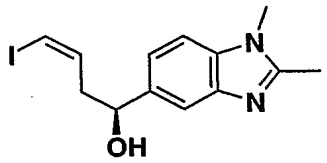
Sodium bis(trimethylsilyl) amide (18.0 ml of a 1M THF solution) is slowly added at room temperature to a suspension of the finely crushed iodomethyl-triphenylphosphonium iodide (9.9 g) in 50 ml THF. The solution becomes quickly orange. After the end of the addition (~15 min), the mixture is cooled down to -78°C and the aldehyde **16** (4.98 g) in THF (20 ml) is added drop wise. After 30 min stirring at -78°C, the reaction is quenched by the addition of a saturated solution of ammonium chloride (50 ml) under vigorous stirring. The mixture is then allowed to warm up to room temperature and CH_2Cl_2 is added (100 ml). The two layers are separated by decantation and the aqueous phase is extracted twice with CH_2Cl_2 (50 ml). After drying of the joined organic phases with sodium sulfate and evaporation of the solvents under vacuo, the residue is taken in hexane (50 ml) in order to precipitate the triphenylphosphine oxide. The precipitate is filtered off and washed with hexane (5 ml) and the solvent of the filtrate is removed under vacuo. This procedure is repeated twice until no more phosphine oxide is present in hexane solution (controled by TLC). The crude is then purified by Flash chromatography (Hexane/acetone : 90/10 to 60/40) to yield **17**, as a clear oil which solidifies within two weeks at 4°C.

ESI-MS : 456.9 $(M+H)^+$.

Rf=0.54 (CH_2Cl_2/MeOH : 90/10).

^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$/ppm): 7.63 (bs, 1H), 7.23 (m, 2H), 6.22 (m, 2H), 4.90 (false triplet, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.65-2.46 (m, 2H), 2.61 (s, 3H), 0.88 (s, 9H), 0.04 (s, 3H), -0.14 (s, 3H).

(3b)-Compound **18** :



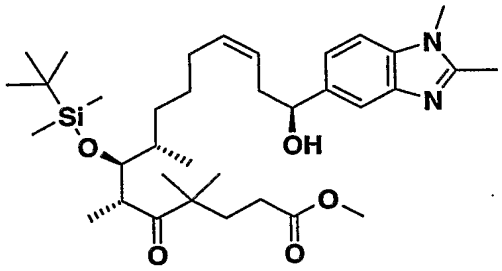
Camphorsulfonic acid (6.5g, 28 mmol) is added carefully (~10 installments) in a solution of **17** (3.19 g, 7 mmol) in methylene chloride (150 ml) and methanol (150 ml) at 0°C. The mixture is then allowed to warm up to room temperature and is stirred for 17 h. The mixture is then carefully poured in an Erlenmeyer containing distilled water (500 ml) and sodium bicarbonate (4.7 g) under vigorous stirring. The layers are separated and the aqueous phase is extracted three times with CH_2Cl_2 (150 ml). The organic phases are joined, dried over sodium sulfate and the solvents are removed under vacuo. The crude, a yellow solid (2.4 g) is purified by three successive recrystallization (Hexane/CH_2Cl_2/MeOH : 50/50/1) in order to give **18**, a slight yellow solid.

ESI-MS : 343.0 $(M+H)^+$.

Rf=0.35 (CH_2Cl_2/MeOH : 90/10).

^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$/ppm): 7.66 (s, 1H), 7.29 (m, 2H), 6.29 (m, 2H), 4.97 (m, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 2.78-2.62 (m, 2H), 2.62 (s, 3H).

(3c)-Compound **19** :



Flask A : To a solution of **7** (1.0 g) in 15 ml THF is added 9-BBN (10 ml of a 0.5M solution in THF) drop wise at 0°C. After the end of the addition, the ice bath is removed and the reaction mixture is allowed to warm up to room temperature. The reaction is monitored by TLC and is complete after 100 minutes. The excess of 9-BBN is quenched by addition of 200 µl of distilled water.

Flask B : In a 100 ml three-necked round bottomed flask, are successively added the vinyl iodide TI-35 (684 mg) and 25 ml of DMF. The solution is cooled down to 0°C and Cesium carbonate (1.36 g), Triphenylarsine (122 mg), the Palladium catalyst (340 mg) and distilled water (1 ml) are successively added. The content of Flask A is then rapidly added (30 sec)

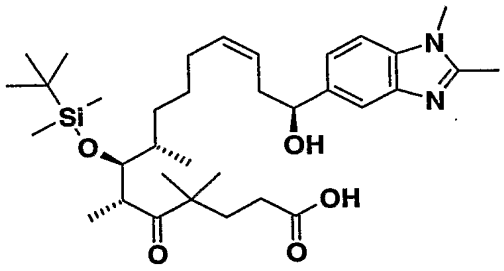
under vigorous stirring. After 10 minutes at 0°C, the ice bath is removed and the reaction mixture is allowed to warm up to room temperature. The reaction is monitored by MS and is complete after 1h15. The mixture is then poured in a 1L Erlenmeyer containing 300 ml of diethyl ether and 300 ml of distilled water. The two layers are separated by decantation and the aqueous phase is extracted twice with 200 ml of diethyl ether. The organic phases are joined and dried with magnesium sulfate. Evaporation of the solvents under vacuo yielded a brown oil (4.0 g) which is purified by flash chromatography (Hexanes/Acetone : 70/30 to 30/70) to finally yield **19** as a thick yellow oil.

ESI-MS : 615.2 $(M+H)^+$.

Rf=0.24 (Hex/acetone : 50/50).

^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$/ppm): 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.21 (m, 2H), 5.50-5.27 (m, 2H), 4.76 (dd, 1H), 3.74 (dd, 1H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 3.08 (m, 1H), 2.63-2.31 (m, 2H), 2.54 (s, 3H), 2.16 (m, 2H), 1.96 (m, 2H), 1.77 (m, 4H), 1.34-0.94 (m, 3H), 1.11 (s, 3H), 1.05 (s, 3H), 0.98 (d, 3H), 0.84 (s, 9H), 0.81 (d, 3H), 0.01 (s, 6H).

(3d)-Compound **20** :



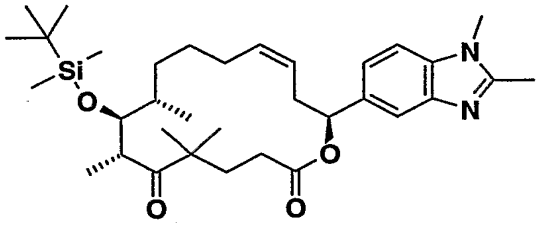
Lithium hydroxide (163 mg) is added to a solution of **19** (700 mg) in a mixture of isopropanol (16 ml) and water (4 ml). The reaction mixture is then warmed up to 60°C and stirred for 45 min. The mixture is then poured into an Erlenmeyer containing 40 ml of CH_2Cl_2 and 40 ml of water. The mixture is then acidified to pH 5 by a slow addition of Hydrochloric acid 1M under vigorous stirring (approx 6.5 ml). The two layers are separated by decantation and the aqueous phase is extracted three times with 20 ml of CH_2Cl_2. The organic phases are joined and after drying with magnesium sulfate, removing of the solvents under vacuo, the crude is purified by flash chromatography (CH_2Cl_2/Methanol : 95/5 to 90/10) to yield **20** as a white foam.

ESI-MS : 601.0 $(M+H)^+$.

Rf=0.43 (CH_2Cl_2/MeOH : 90/10).

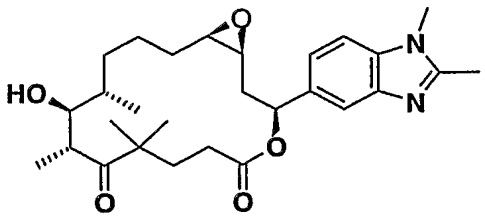
^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$/ppm): 7.88 (s, 1H), 7.31 (AB system, 2H), 5.62 (m, 1H), 5.47 (m, 1H), 4.84 (dd, 9,5 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (dd, 6,3 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.24 (m, 1H), 2.72-1.88 (m, 8H), 2.65 (s, 3H), 1.54-1.06 (m, 5H), 1.23 (s, 3H), 1.20 (s, 3H), 1.13 (d, 7 Hz, 3H), 0.95 (d, 3H), 0.94 (s, 9H), 0.13 (s, 3H), 0.10 (s, 3H).

(3e)-compound **21** :



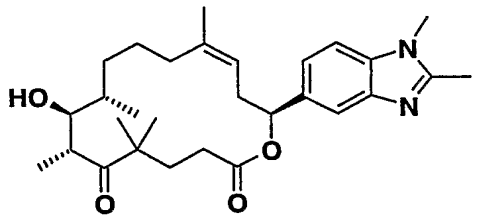
Flask A : To a solution of **20** (473 mg) and Triethylamine (770 µl) in tetrahydrofuran (20 ml) at 0°C, is rapidly added 2,4,6-trichlorobenzoyl chloride (740 µl). After stirring at 0°C for 15 min, the mixture is allowed to warm up to room temperature and stirred for another 15 minutes.
Flask B : The content of Flask A is slowly added (2h) to a solution of DMAP (1.15 g) in 600 ml of toluene, under vigorous stirring. After the end of the addition, the mixture is stirred for an additional 30 minutes. The solvents are then removed under vacuo and the residue is purified by flash chromatography (Hexanes/acetone 60/40 to 40/60) to yield **21**, as a white foam.
ESI-MS : 583.2 $(M+H)^+$.
Rf=0.31 (Hex/acetone : 50/50).
^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$/ppm): 7.59 (s, 1H), 7.16 (m, 2H), 5.89 (dd, 1H), 5.37 (m, 2H), 3.72 (m, 1H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.05 (m, 1H), 2.74 (m, 1H), 2.52 (s, 3H), 2.35 (m, 1H), 2.26-1.63 (m, 6H), 1.42-0.74 (m, 2H), 1.20 (s, 3H), 1.02 (d, 7 Hz, 3H), 0.92 (s, 3H), 0.87 (d, 7 Hz, 3H), 0.84 (s, 9H), 0.05 (s, 3H), 0.0 (s, 3H).

Example 4 :3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-11-hydroxy-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxa-bicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione (compound **23**)



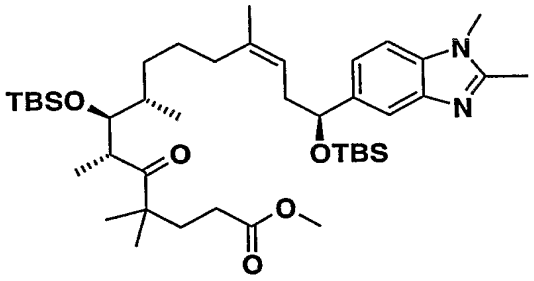
In a 10 ml round bottomed flask are successively introduced distilled water (7 ml), Pyridine (50 µl) and hydrogen peroxide 30% (700 µl). A part of this solution (5 ml) is rapidly added in a solution of **22** (94 mg) in 5 ml of CH_2Cl_2 and under vigorous stirring, MTO (20 mg) is added in one portion. After 5h of stirring, the reaction mixture is quenched by addition of 5 ml of a saturated aqueous NaHCO3 solution. The two layers are separated by decantation and the aqueous phase is extracted twice with CH_2Cl_2(20 ml). After drying with magnesium sulfate and removal of the solvent in vacuo, the crude mixture (a 2:1 diastereomeric mixture) is purified by preparative TLC, to finally yield the pure diastereomer **23**, as a white powder.
ESI-MS: 485.3 $(M+H)^+$.
Rf=0.40 (Hexane/acetone : 30/70).
^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$/ppm): 7.68 (s, 1H), 7.29 (m, 2H), 6.05 (dd, 10 Hz, 3 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (m, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.27 (m, 1H), 3.12 (m, 1H), 2.98 (m, 1H), 2.64 (s, 3H), 2.37-1.35 (m, 13H), 1.30 (s, 3H), 1.22 (d, 7 Hz, 3H), 1.10 (d, 7 Hz, 3H), 1.03 (s, 3H).

Example 5 - (Z)-(7R,8S,9S,16S)-16-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-8-hydroxy-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-oxacyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione (**29**).



To a solution of **28** (100 mg, 0.167 mmol) in 5 mL CH_3CN and in a Teflon tube is added at rt 1 mL of HF.Pyridine (70/30) and the reaction mixture is stirred for 3h at rt. The reaction mixture is washed with a 5% solution of $NaHCO_3$, extracted 3 times with 10 mL AcOEt and then the organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$). Purification by flash column chromatography (Hexane/Acetone - 90/10 to 50/50) afforded **29**.
ESI-MS: M($C_{29}H_{42}N_2O_4$) = 482.6, $(M+H)^+$ = 483.3.
Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 30/70 : 0.36.
^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) : δ = 7.62 (s, 1H), 7.20 (m, 2H), 5.87 (m, 1H), 5.20 (m, 1H), 3.72 (m, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.21 (m, 1H), 2.92 (m, 2H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.30 (m, 2H), 2.10 (m, 2H), 1.90 (m, 2H), 1.63 (s, 3H), 1.30 (m, 2H), 1.22 (s, 3H), 1.18 (d, 3H), 1.04 (d, 3H), 0.98 (s, 3H).

(5a) - Compound **25** :



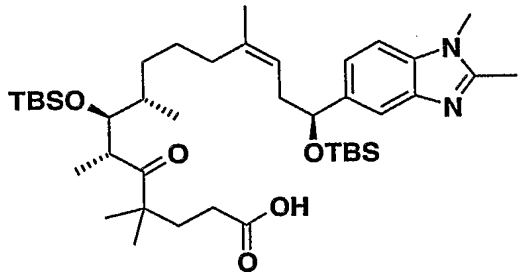
To a 0.5M solution of 9-BBN in 3 mL THF (3.85 mL, 1.913 mmol) is added dropwise **7** (0.38 g, 0.96 mmol) in 3 mL THF at rt. After 30 min TLC analysis revealed the complete consumption of the starting olefin. In a separate flask, containing vinyl iodide **24** (0.45 g, 0.96 mmol) in 4 mL DMF were added successively, $CsCO_3$ (0.62 g, 1.91 mmol), $AsPh_3$ (59 mg, 0.19 mmol), $Pd(dppf)_2Cl_2$ (140 mg, 0.19 mmol) and H_2O (0.51 mL, 28.7 mmol). In first solution is added H_2O (0.17 mL, 9.5 mmol) to quench the excess 9-BBN and the alkyl borane solution is added rapidly by syringe to the solution containing the vinyl iodide. The reaction mixture is stirred at rt for 2h and quenched with H_2O, extracted 3 times with 25 mL Et_2O. The combined organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated in vacuum. Purification by flash column chromatography (Hexane/Acetone - 90/10 to 70/30) afforded **25** as an oil.

ESI-MS: M($C_{42}H_{74}N_2O_5Si_2$) = 743.2, $(M+H)^+$ = 743.4.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 50/50 : 0.54.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.22 (m, 2H), 5.20 (m, 1H), 4.75 (t, 1H), 3.80 (m, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 3.18 (m, 1H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.40 (m, 2H), 2.22 (m, 2H), 1.90 (m, 2H), 1.80 (m, 2H), 1.65 (s, 3H), 1.30 (m, 2H), 1.20 (s, 3H), 1.10 (s, 3H), 1.05 (d, 3H), 0.93 (s, 9H), 0.92 (d, 3H), 0.91 (s, 9H), 0.09 (s, 6H), 0.03 (s, 3H), -0.14 (s, 3H).

(5b) - Compound **26** :



To a solution of **25** (0.5 g, 0.67 mmol) in 20 mL *i*-PrOH/H_2O - 4/1 is added LiOH (97 mg, 4 mmol) and the mixture is heated at 60°C for 3h. After cooling to rt, the solution is quenched with a saturated solution of NH_4Cl, extracted 3 times with 25 mL CH_2Cl_2. The combined

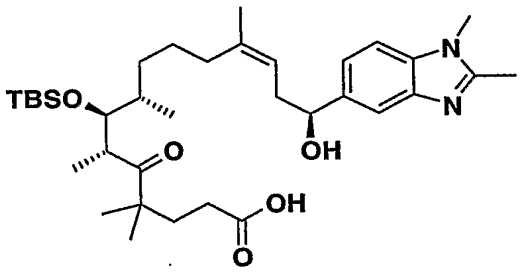
organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated in vacuum. The crude product is used directly in the next step.

ESI-MS: $M(C_{41}H_{72}N_2O_5Si_2) = 729.2$, $(M+H)^+ = 729.3$.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 30/70 : 0.57.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CD_3OD): δ = 7.50 (s, 1H), 7.38 (d, 1H), 7.21 (d, 1H), 5.20 (m, 1H), 4.78 (t, 1H), 3.78 (m, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.20 (m, 1H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.40 (m, 2H), 2.08 (m, 2H), 1.93 (m, 2H), 1.80 (m, 2H), 1.62 (s, 3H), 1.30 (m, 4H), 1.18 (s, 3H), 1.16 (s, 3H), 1.05 (d, 3H), 0.92 (s, 9H), 0.92 (d, 3H), 0.91 (s, 9H), 0.06 (s, 6H), 0.05 (s, 3H), -0.17 (s, 3H).

(5c) - Compound **27 :**



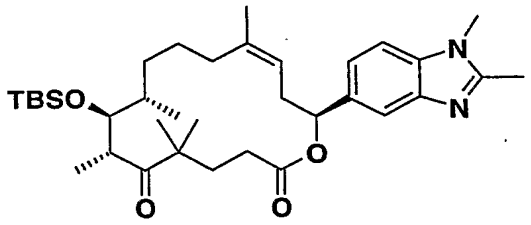
To a solution of **26** (0.44 g, 0.6 mmol) in 5 mL THF at rt is added a 1M solution of TBAF (1.8 mL, 1.8 mmol) and reaction mixture is stirred at rt overnight. The reaction mixture is washed with a saturated solution of NH_4Cl, extracted 3 times with 10 mL CH_2Cl_2 and then the organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$). Purification by flash column chromatography (Hexane/Et_2O - 90/10 to 50/50) afforded **27** as a colourless oil.

ESI-MS: $M(C_{35}H_{58}N_2O_5Si) = 614.9$, $(M+H)^+ = 615.3$.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 30/70 : 0.24.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CD_3OD): δ = 7.52 (s, 1H), 7.39 (d, 1H), 7.26 (d, 1H), 5.18 (m, 1H), 4.69 (t, 1H), 3.78 (m, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.20 (m, 1H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.48 (m, 2H), 2.12 (m, 2H), 1.94 (m, 2H), 1.78 (m, 2H), 1.62 (s, 3H), 1.30 (m, 4H), 1.15 (s, 3H), 1.06 (s, 3H), 1.05 (d, 3H), 0.89 (s, 9H), 0.89 (d, 3H), 0.05 (s, 3H), 0.04 (s, 3H).

(5d) - Compound **28 :** (*Z*)-(7R,8S,9S,16S)-8-(tert-Butyl-dimethyl-silanyloxy)-16-(1,2-dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-oxacyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione.



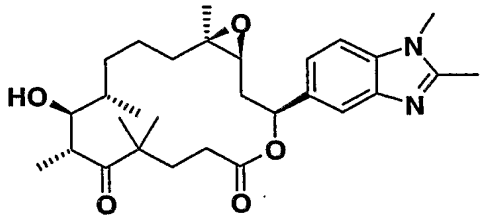
To a solution of **27** (120 mg, 0.195 mmol) in 5 mL THF at 0°C is added triethylamine (0.163 mL, 1.17 mmol) followed by trichlorobenzoylchloride (0.152 mL, 0.975 mmol). After stirring for 20 min at rt, the solution is diluted with 20 mL dry toluene and the resulting solution is added slowly in 1h to a previously prepared solution of DMAP (0.24 g, 1.95 mmol) in 150 mL toluene. The reaction mixture is stirred at rt for 30 min and then concentrated in vacuum. The crude product is purified by flash column chromatography (Hexane/Acetone - 90/10 to 70/30) to afford **28** as an oil.

ESI-MS: $M(C_{35}H_{56}N_2O_4Si) = 596.9$, $(M+H)^+ = 597.3$.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 70/30 : 0.18.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) for major compound : δ = 7.62 (s, 1H), 7.20 (m, 2H), 5.90 (m, 1H), 5.18 (m, 1H), 3.79 (m, 1H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.17 (m, 1H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.30 (m, 2H), 2.10 (m, 2H), 1.80 (m, 2H), 1.63 (s, 3H), 1.30 (m, 2H), 1.23 (s, 3H), 1.08 (d, 3H), 1.00 (s, 3H), 0.95 (d, 3H), 0.90 (s, 9H), 0.10 (s, 3H), 0.07 (s, 3H).

Example 6 – (1S,3S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-11-hydroxy-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxa-bicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione (**30**).



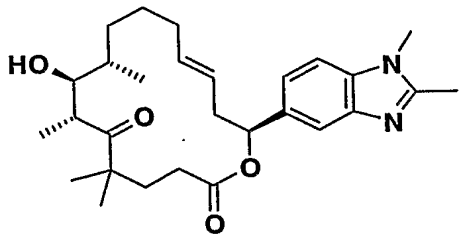
To a solution of **29** (30 mg, 0.062 mmol) in 2 mL of CH_2Cl_2 at rt is added 1 mL of a solution H_2O_2/H_2O/Pyridine - 16/140/1 and MTO (7.8 mg, 0.031 mmole). The reaction mixture is stirred at rt for 30 min and then is quenched with a saturated solution of NH_4Cl and extracted 3 times with 10 mL CH_2Cl_2. The combined organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated in vacuum. Purification by flash column chromatography (Hexane/Acetone - 90/10 to 70/30) afforded **30** in more than 10/1 ratio in favour of desired epoxide.

ESI-MS: $M(C_{29}H_{42}N_2O_5) = 498.6$, $(M+H)^+ = 498.9$.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 30/70 : 0.25.

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) : δ = 7.62 (s, 1H), 7.21 (m, 2H), 6.00 (m, 1H), 3.78 (m, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.22 (m, 1H), 2.91 (m, 2H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.59 (m, 1H), 2.30 (m, 2H), 2.10 (m, 2H), 1.90 (m, 2H), 1.40 (m, 4H), 1.27 (s, 3H), 1.21 (s, 3H), 1.15 (d, 3H), 1.04 (d, 3H), 0.99 (s, 3H).

Example 7 - (*E*)-(7R,8S,9S,16S)-16-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-8-hydroxy - 5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-oxacyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione (**37**).



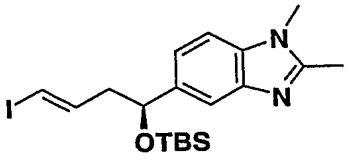
To a solution of **36** (110 mg, 0.188 mmol) in 5 mL CH_3CN and in a Teflon tube is added at rt 1 mL of HF.Pyridine (70/30) and the reaction mixture is stirred for 2h at rt. The reaction mixture is washed with a 5% solution of $NaHCO_3$, extracted 3 times with 10 mL AcOEt and then the organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$). Purification by flash column chromatography (Hexane/Acetone - 90/10 to 50/50) afforded **37** as a colourless oil.

ESI-MS: M($C_{28}H_{40}N_2O_4$) = 468.6, $(M+H)^+$ = 469.3.

Rf : Hexane/Acetone - 30/70 : 0.35.

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 7.80 (s, 1H), 7.25 (m, 2H), 6.10 (m, 1H), 5.60 (m, 1H), 5.50 (m, 1H), 3.80 (m, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.30 (m, 1H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.55 (m, 2H), 2.40 (m, 2H), 2.20 (m, 2H), 1.90 (m, 4H), 1.60 (m, 4H), 1.15 (s, 6H), 1.10 (d, 3H), 0.95 (d, 3H).

(7a) - Compound **31** :



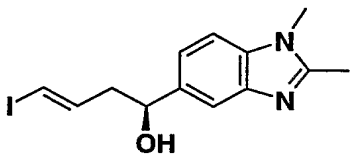
To a solution of $CrCl_2$ (3.0 g, 24.06 mmol) in 10 mL THF at rt, is added dropwise over 30 min a mixture of **16** (1.0 g, 3.0 mmol) and CHI_3 (2.4 g, 6.0 mmol) in 60 mL of Dioxane. The reaction mixture is stirred 3h at rt and quenched with 20 mL H_2O, extracted 3 times with 20 mL Et_2O and 3 times with 20 mL AcOEt. The combined organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated in vacuum. Purification by flash column chromatography (CH_2Cl_2/Acetone - 100/0 to 0/100) afforded **31** in a 5/1 ratio.

ESI-MS: M($C_{19}H_{29}N_2OSiI$) = 456.4, $(M+H)^+$ = 457.0.

Rf: Acetone - 100 : 0.50.

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.20 (m, 2H), 6.50 (m, 1H), 6.00 (dt, 1H), 4.80 (m, 1H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 2.80 (s, 3H), 2.40 (m, 2H), 0.95 (s, 9H), 0.05 (s, 3H), -0.18 (s, 3H).

(7b) - Compound **32** :



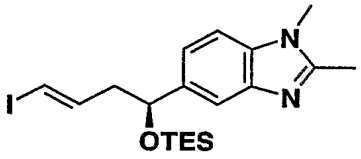
To a solution of **31** (1.0 g, 2.191 mmol) in 100 mL of a CH_2Cl_2/MeOH -1/1 solution, is added CSA (2.24 g, 9.64 mmol) and the reaction mixture is stirred 2 days at rt. The mixture is quenched with $NaHCO_3$ (5%) solution until pH-7 and extracted 3 times with 25 mL AcOEt. The combined organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated in vacuum. Purification by flash column chromatography (CH_2Cl_2/MeOH - 100/0 to 95/5) afforded **32**. Crystallization in CH_2Cl_2/Hexane - 1/1 with 3 drops of MeOH afforded **32** in a 15/1 ratio as white crystals.

ESI-MS: $M(C_{13}H_{15}N_2OI)$ = 342.2, $(M+H)^+$ = 343.0.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 50/50 : 0.25.

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.20 (m, 2H), 6.50 (m, 1H), 6.10 (d, 1H), 4.80 (m, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 2.65 (s, 3H), 2.55 (m, 2H).

(7c) - Compound **33** :



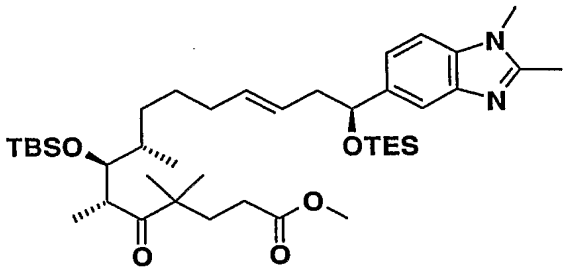
To a solution of **32** (0.6 g, 1.753 mmol) in 8 mL DMF at 0°C is added imidazole (0.36 g, 5.26 mmol) followed by TESCl (0.44 mL, 2.63 mmol). The mixture is stirred 1h30 at 0°C and then is quenched with H_2O, extracted 3 times with 20 mL Et_2O. The combined organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated in vacuum. Purification by flash column chromatography (Hexane/Acetone - 90/10) afforded **33** as colourless oil.

ESI-MS: $M(C_{19}H_{29}N_2OSiI)$ = 456.4, $(M+H)^+$ = 457.1.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 50/50 : 0.67.

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.20 (m, 2H), 6.50 (m, 1H), 6.00 (dt, 1H), 4.80 (m, 1H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 2.80 (s, 3H), 2.40 (m, 2H), 0.95 (t, 9H), 0.50 (q, 6H).

(7d) - Compound **34** :



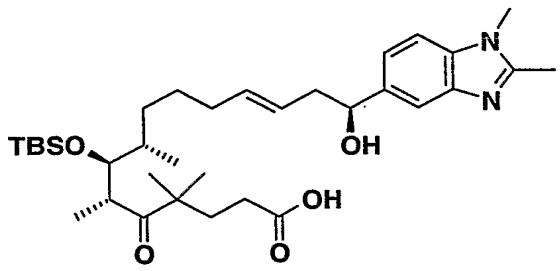
To a 0.5M solution of 9-BBN in 2 mL THF (6.57 mL, 3.286 mmol) is added dropwise **7** (0.63 g, 1.577 mmol) in 5 mL THF at rt. After 2h TLC analysis revealed the complete consumption of the starting olefin. In a separate flask, containing vinyl iodide (0.6 g, 1.314 mmol) in 5 mL DMF were added successively, $CsCO_3$ (0.85 g, 2.63 mmol), $AsPh_3$ (80 mg, 0.263 mmol), $Pd(dppf)_2Cl_2$ (192 mg, 0.263 mmol) and H_2O (0.71 mL, 39.43 mmol). In first solution is added H_2O (0.24 mL, 13.14 mmol) to quench the excess 9-BBN and the alkyl borane solution is added rapidly by syringe to the solution containing the vinyl iodide **33**. The reaction mixture is stirred at rt for 2 h and quenched with H_2O, extracted 3 times with 20 mL CH_2Cl_2. The combined organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated in vacuum. Purification by flash column chromatography (Hexane/Acetone - 90/10 to 50/50) afforded **34** as an oil.

ESI-MS: $M(C_{41}H_{72}N_2O_5Si_2) = 729.2$, $(M+H)^+ = 730.2$.

Rf : Hexane/Acetone - 70/30 : 0.27.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.20 (m, 2H), 5.40 (m, 2H), 4.70 (t, 1H), 3.80 (m, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.15 (m, 1H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.40 (m, 2H), 2.20 (m, 2H), 1.90 (m, 2H), 1.80 (m, 6H), 1.30 (m, 4H), 1.20 (s, 3H), 1.10 (s, 3H), 1.05 (d, 3H), 0.95 (d, 3H), 0.93 (s, 9H), 0.85 (t, 9H), 0.50 (q, 6H), 0.05 (s, 6H).

(7e) - Compound **35** :



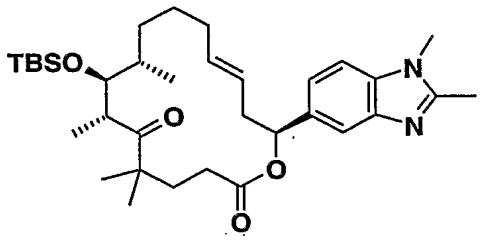
To a solution of **34** (0.27 g, 0.37 mmol) in 10 mL *i*-PrOH/H_2O - 4/1 is added LiOH (54 mg, 2.22 mmol) and the mixture is heated at 60°C for 6 h. After cooling to rt, the solution is quenched with a saturated solution of NH_4Cl, extracted twice with 10 mL CH_2Cl_2 and twice with 10 mL AcOEt. The combined organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated in vacuum. Purification by flash column chromatography (CH_2Cl_2/MeOH - 95/5 to 70/30) afforded **35** as a colourless oil.

ESI-MS: M($C_{34}H_{56}N_2O_5Si$) = 600.9, $(M+H)^+$ = 601.2.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 30/70 : 0.27.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 7.65 (s, 1H), 7.25 (m, 2H), 5.50 (m, 1H), 5.30 (m, 1H), 4.80 (t, 1H), 3.80 (m, 1H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.20 (m, 1H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.45 (m, 2H), 2.25 (m, 2H), 1.90 (m, 2H), 1.80 (m, 6H), 1.40 (m, 4H), 1.20 (s, 3H), 1.10 (s, 3H), 1.05 (d, 3H), 0.95 (d, 3H), 0.94 (s, 9H), 0.05 (s, 6H).

(7f) - Compound **36 :** (*E*)-(7R,8S,9S,16S)-16-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-5,5,7,8,9-pentamethyl-oxacyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione.



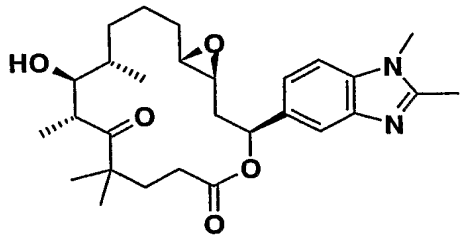
To a solution of **35** (160 mg, 0.266 mmol) in 7 mL THF at 0°C is added triethylamine (0.22 mL, 1.6 mmol) followed by trichlorobenzoylchloride (0.21 mL, 1.33 mmol). After stirring for 20 min at rt, the solution is diluted with 20 mL dry toluene and the resulting solution is added slowly in 1h to a previously prepared solution of DMAP (0.32 mg, 2.66 mmol) in 170 mL toluene. The reaction mixture is stirred at rt for 1h and then concentrated in vacuum. The crude product is purified by flash column chromatography (Hexane/Acetone - 90/10 to 50/50) to afford **36** as a colourless oil.

ESI-MS: M($C_{34}H_{54}N_2O_4Si$) = 582.9, $(M+H)^+$ = 583.2.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 30/70 : 0.38.

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 7.65 (s, 1H), 7.20 (2s, 2H), 6.05 (m, 1H), 5.60 (m, 1H), 5.50 (m, 1H), 3.80 (m, 1H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.20 (m, 1H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.40 (m, 2H), 2.25 (m, 2H), 2.00 (m, 2H), 1.80 (m, 6H), 1.40 (m, 4H), 1.20 (s, 3H), 1.20 (s, 3H), 1.15 (d, 3H), 0.95 (d, 3H), 0.94 (s, 9H), 0.10 (s, 3H), 0.05 (s, 3H).

Example 8 - (1S,3S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-11-hydroxy-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxa-bicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione (**38**).



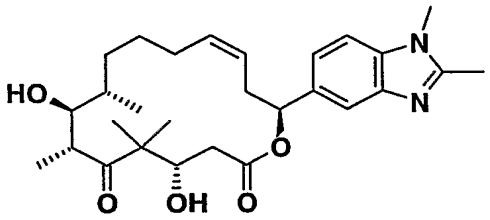
To a solution of **37** (30 mg, 0.064 mmol) in 1 mL CH_3CN/DMM - 1/1 at rt were added successively 0.6 mL of a buffer solution ($Na_2B_4O_7$.10 H_2O [0.05M] in Na_2EDTA [4.10^{-4}M]), $Bu_4N(HSO_4)$ (0.9 mg, 0.0025 mmol) and fructose-derived ketone (13.2 mg, 0.051 mmol). The reaction mixture is cooled to 0°C and were added separately, in a same time over 1h30, Oxone® (55.1 mg, 0.089 mmol) in 0.8 mL Na_2EDTA and K_2CO_3 (51.3 mg, 0.371 mmol) in 0.8 mL H_2O. The solution is stirred at 0°C for 3h and then is quenched with H_2O, extracted 3 times with 10 mL AcOEt. The combined organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated in vacuum. Purification by flash column chromatography (Hexane/Acetone/MeOH - 70/30/0 to 45/50/5) afforded **38**, 76% conversion.

ESI-MS: $M(C_{28}H_{40}N_2O_4)$ = 484.6, $(M+H)^+$ = 485.3.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 30/70 : 0.22.

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.25 (m, 2H), 6.10 (m, 1H), 3.80 (m, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.25 (m, 1H), 2.90 (m, 2H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.40 (m, 2H), 2.35 (m, 2H), 2.20 (m, 2H), 1.90 (m, 6H), 1.60 (m, 4H), 1.15 (s, 6H), 1.20 (d, 3H), 1.00 (d, 3H).

Example 9 :16-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-4,8-dihydroxy-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-oxacyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione (compound **43**).



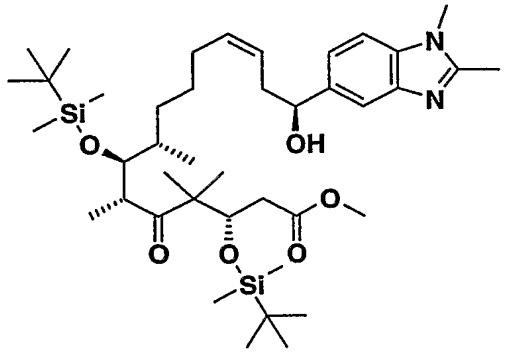
To a 50 ml plastic tube, equipped with a magnetic stir bar, are successively added **42** (170 mg) and 10 ml of acetonitrile. To this solution is rapidly added HF-Pyridine complex (2 ml). The reaction is monitored by TLC (CH_2Cl_2/MeOH: 95/5) and the mixture is stirred at room temperature for 20 h. The reaction mixture is then carefully added drop wise to an Erlenmeyer containing CH_2Cl_2 (30 ml) and (30 ml) and saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate. The pH of the aqueous phase is adjusted to 9 by addition of pure sodium bicarbonate. The two layers are then separated by decantation and the aqueous phase is exctracted three times with CH_2Cl_2 (30 ml). After drying with magnesium sulfate, the solvents are removed under vacuo and the crude mixture is purified by flash chromatography (CH_2Cl_2/methanol : 95/5 to 90/10) to finally give **43** as a white solid.

ESI-MS : 485.3 $(M+H)^+$.

Rf=0.24 (CH_2Cl_2/MeOH : 95/5).

^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, CD_3OD/ppm): 7.62 (s, 1H), 7.37 (AB, 10 Hz, 2H), 5.88 (m, 1H), 5.50 (m, 2H), 4.27 (m, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.68 (m, 1H), 3.27 (q, 8Hz, 1H), 2.95 (m, 1H), 2.59 (s, 3H), 2.50-2.28 (m, 4H),2.01 (m,1H), 1.69 (m, 1H), 1.60-1.43 (m, 2H), 1.37-1.10 (m, 2H), 1.30 (s, 3H), 1.21 (d, 8 Hz, 3H), 1.05 (d, 7 Hz, 3H), 1.02 (s, 3H), 0.9 (m, 1H).

(9a)-compound **40** :



Flask A : To a solution of **39** (265 mg) in 3.5 ml THF is added 9-BBN (2 ml of a 0.5M solution in THF) drop wise at 0°C. After the end of the addition, the ice bath is removed and the reaction mixture is allowed to warm up to room temperature. The reaction is monitored by

TLC and is complete after 100 minutes. The excess of 9-BBN is quenched by addition of 50 µl of distilled water.

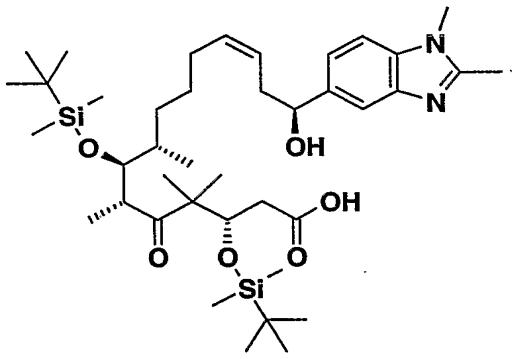
Flask B : In a 25 ml three-necked round bottomed flask, are successively added the vinyl iodide **18** (142 mg) and 5 ml of DMF. The solution is cooled down to 0°C and Cesium carbonate (234 mg), triphenylarsine (25 mg), the Palladium catalyst (68 mg) and distilled water (200 µl) are successively added. The content of Flask A is then rapidly added (30 sec) under vigorous stirring. After 10 minutes at 0°C, the ice bath is removed and the reaction mixture is allowed to warm up to room temperature. The reaction is monitored by MS and is complete after 1h15. The mixture is then poured in a 100 ml Erlenmeyer containing 50 ml of diethyl ether and 50 ml of a saturated aqueous ammonium chloride. The two layers are separated by decantation and the aqueous phase is extracted twice with 50 ml of diethyl ether. The organic phases are joined and dried with magnesium sulfate. Evaporation of the solvents under vacuo yielded a brown oil which is purified by flash chromatography (Hexanes/Acetone : 80/20 to 60/40) to finally yield **40** as a thick yellow oil.

ESI-MS : 745.2 $(M+H)^+$.

Rf=0.15 (Hex/Acetone : 70/30).

^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$/ppm): 7.69 (s, 1H), 7.38 (AB, 2H), 5.53 (m, 1H), 5.37 (m, 1H), 4.81 (dd, 1H), 4.39 (dd, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.77 (dd, 1H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.13 (m, 1H), 2.79 (s, 3H), 2.69-2.46 (m, 2H), 2.42 (A of ABX, 1H), 2.27 (B of ABX, 1H), 2.02 (m, 2H), 1.43-1.0 (m, 6H), 1.24 (s, 3H), 1.07 (s, 3H), 1.04 (d, 7Hz, 3H), 0.91 (s, 9H), 0.89 (d, 7Hz, 3H), 0.88 (s, 9H), 0.10 (s, 3H), 0.06 (s, 6H), 0.03 (s, 3H).

(9b)-compound **41** :



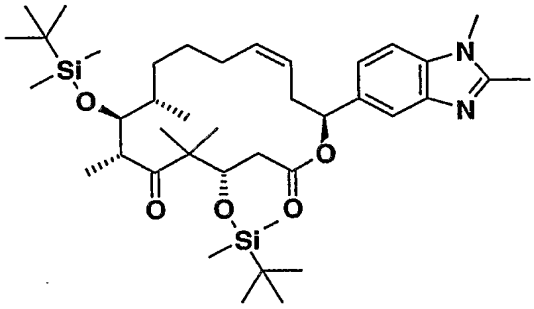
Lithium hydroxide (39 mg) is added to a solution of **40** (200 mg) in a mixture of isopropanol (4.8 ml) and water (1.2 ml). The reaction mixture is then warmed up to 60°C and stirred for 2h30. The mixture is then poured into an Erlenmeyer containing 40 ml of CH_2Cl_2 and 30 ml of water. The mixture is then acidified to pH 5 by a slow addition of Hydrochloric acid 0.1 N under vigorous stirring (approx 16 ml). The two layers are separated by decantation and the aqueous phase is extracted three times with 20 ml of CH_2Cl_2. The organic phases are joined and after drying with magnesium sulfate, removing of the solvents under vacuo, the crude is purified by flash chromatography (Hexanes/acetone : 50/50 to 0/100) to yield **41**, as a white foam.

ESI-MS : 731.3 $(M+H)^+$.

Rf=0.12 (CH_2Cl_2/MeOH : 95/5).

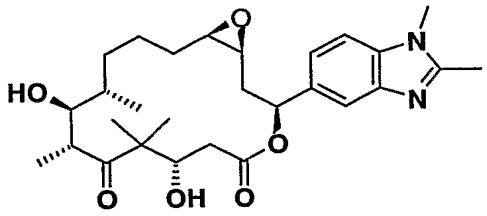
^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, CD_3OD/ppm): 7.53 (s, 1H), 7.34 (AB, 2H), 5.39 (m, 2H), 4.72 (t, 1H), 4.33 (dd, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.74 (dd, 1H), 3.21 (m, 1H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.54 (m, 2H), 2.43 (A of ABX, 1H), 2.18 (B of ABX, 1H), 1.93 (m, 2H), 1.44-0.97 (m, 6H), 1.22 (s, 3H), 1.06 (s, 3H), 1.05 (d, 3H), 0.91 (s, 9H), 0.88 (s, 9H), 0.87 (d, 3H), 0.10 (s, 3H), 0.07 (s, 3H), 0.06 (s, 3H), 0.05 (s, 3H).

(9c)-compound **42** :



Flask A : To a solution of **41** (300 mg) and Triethylamine (345 µl) in tetrahydrofuran (10 ml) at 0°C, is rapidly added 2,4,6-trichlorobenzoyl chloride (320 µl). After stirring at 0°C for 15 min, the mixture is allowed to warm up to room temperature and stirred for another 15 minutes.
Flask B : The content of Flask A is slowly added (1h30) to a solution of DMAP (600 mg) in 300 ml of toluene, under vigorous stirring. After the end of the addition, the mixture is stirred for an additional 30 minutes. The solvents are then removed under vacuo and the residue is purified by flash chromatography (Hexanes/acetone 60/40 to 40/60) to yield the desired product **42**, as a white foam.
ESI-MS : 713.1 $(M+H)^+$.
Rf=0.37 (CH_2Cl_2/MeOH : 95/5).
^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, CD_3OD/ppm): 7.56 (s, 1H), 7.31 (AB, 2H), 5.62 (bd, 10 Hz, 1H), 5.60-5.40 (m, 2H), 3.99 (d, 9 Hz,1H), 3.92 (d, 8 Hz, 1H),3.20-2.67 (m, 4H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.16 (m, 1H), 1.93 (m, 1H), 1.66 (m, 2H), 1.3-0.8 (m, 5H), 1.19 (s, 3H), 1.13 (s, 3H), 1.12 (d, 3H), 1.01 (d, 7 Hz, 3H), 0.98 (s, 9H), 0.88 (s, 9H), 0.16 (s, 3H), 0.14 (s, 3H), 0.12 (s, 3H), -0.04 (s, 3H).

Example 10 :3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-7,11-dihydroxy-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxa-bicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione (compound **44**)

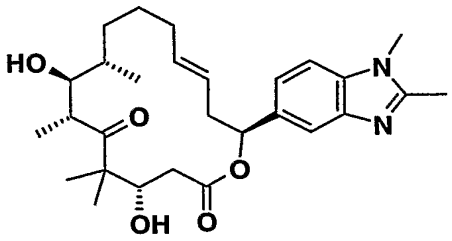


In a 10 ml round bottomed flask are successively introduced distilled water (7 ml), Pyridine (50 µl) and hydrogen peroxide 30% (700 µl). A part of this solution (500 µl) is rapidly added in a solution of **43** (57 mg) in 2 ml of CH_2Cl_2 and under vigorous stirring, MTO (2 mg) is added in one portion. After 5h of stirring, the reaction mixture is added dropwise to an Erlenmeyer containing methylene chloride (20 ml), distilled water (20 ml) and sodium bicarbonate (1g) The two layers are separated by decantation and the aqueous phase is extracted twice with CH_2Cl_2 (20 ml). After drying with magnesium sulfate and removal of the solvent in vacuo, the crude mixture (a 2:1 diastereomeric mixture) is purified by preparative HPLC, to finally yield the pure diastereomer **44**, as a white powder.
ESI-MS : 501.0 $(M+H)^+$.

Rf=0.40 (CH_2Cl_2/MeOH : 90/10).

^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6/ppm): 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.40 (A of AB, 8 Hz, 1H) 7.26 (B of AB, 8 Hz, 1H), 5.92 (bd, 9 Hz, 1H), 5.10 (bd, 6 Hz, 1H), 4.47 (bd, 6 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (m, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.51 (m, 1H), 3.13 (m, 2H), 2.88 (m, 1H), 2.58-2.34 (m, 2H), 2.52 (s, 3H), 2.16 (m, 1H), 1.98 (m, 1H), 1.77-1.10 (m, 5H)1.15 (s, 3H), 1.05 (d, 6 Hz , 3H), 0.93 (s, 3H), 0.92 (d, 3H).

Example 11 - (*E*)-(4S,7R,8S,9S,16S)-16-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-4,8-dihydroxy-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-oxacyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione (**48**).



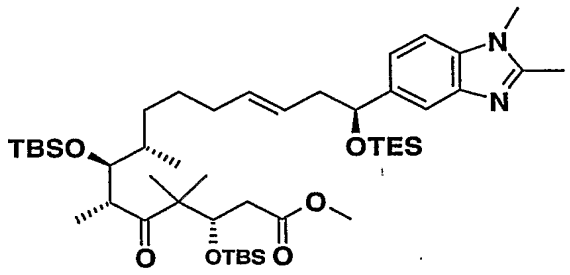
To a solution of **47** (80 mg, 0.112 mmol) in 5 mL CH_3CN and in a Teflon tube is added at rt 1 mL of HF.Pyridine (70/30) and the reaction mixture is stirred 6h at rt. The reaction mixture is washed with a 5% solution of $NaHCO_3$ (pH-5), extracted 3 times with 10 mL AcOEt and then the organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$). Purification by flash column chromatography (Hexane/Acetone - 50/50 to 0/100) afforded **48** as white crystals.

ESI-MS: $M(C_{28}H_{40}N_2O_5)$ = 484.6, $(M+H)^+$ = 485.2.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 30/70 : 0.18.

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, CD_3OD): δ = 7.62 (s, 1H), 7.51 (d, 1H), 7.38 (d, 1H), 6.01 (dd, 1H), 5.57 (m, 1H), 5.33 (m, 1H), 4.60 (dd, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.66 (dd, 1H), 3.42 (m, 1H), 2.68 (m, 2H), 2.65 (s, 3H), 2.50 (m, 2H), 2.24 (m, 1H), 1.90 (m, 1H), 1.69 (m, 2H), 1.33 (m, 2H), 1.30 (d, 3H), 1.17 (s, 3H), 1.02 (s, 3H), 1.00 (d, 3H).

(11a) - Compound **45** :



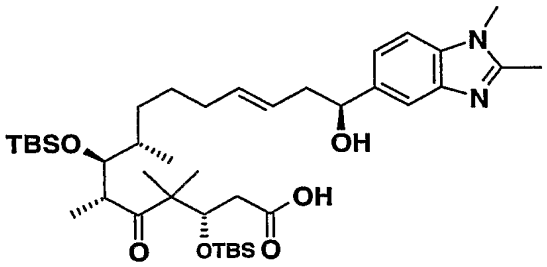
To a 0.5M solution of 9-BBN in 10 mL THF (6.3 mL, 3.149 mmol) is added dropwise **39** (0.8 g, 1.512 mmol) in 5 mL THF at rt. After 2h TLC analysis revealed the complete consumption of the starting olefin. In a separate flask, containing **33** (0.575 g, 1.260 mmol) in 10mL DMF were added successively, Cs_2CO_3 (0.82 g, 2.519 mmol), $AsPh_3$ (77 mg, 0.251 mmol), $Pd(dppf)_2Cl_2$ (184 mg, 0.251 mmol) and H_2O (0.68 mL, 37.6 mmol). In first solution is added H_2O (226 µL, 12.6 mmol) to quench the excess 9-BBN and the alkyl borane solution is added rapidly by syringe to the solution containing **39**. The reaction mixture is stirred at rt overnight and quenched with H_2O, extracted 3 times with 30 mL Et_2O. The combined organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated in vacuum. Purification by flash column chromatography (Hexane/Acetone - 90/10 to 70/30) afforded **45** as colourless oil.

ESI-MS: $M(C_{47}H_{86}N_2O_6Si_3) = 859.5$, $(M)^+ = 859.3$.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 50/50 : 0.73.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.20 (m, 2H), 5.40 (m, 2H), 4.71 (m, 1H), 4.20 (m, 1H), 3.80 (m, 1H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 3.17 (m, 1H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.40 (m, 2H), 2.35 (m, 2H), 1.95 (m, 2H), 1.30 (m, 4H), 1.20 (s, 3H), 1.05 (s, 3H), 1.03 (d, 3H), 0.91 (d, 3H), 0.90 (s, 18H), 0.90 (t, 9H), 0.50 (q, 6H), 0.10 (s, 3H), 0.05 (s, 6H), 0.03 (s, 3H).

(11b) - Compound **46** :



To a solution of **45** (50 mg, 0.067 mmol) in 2 mL *i*-PrOH/H_2O - 4/1 is added LiOH (5 mg, 0.201 mmol) and the mixture is heated 6h at 50°C (in). After cooling to rt, the solution is quenched with a saturated solution of NH_4Cl, extracted twice with 10 mL CH_2Cl_2 and twice with 10 mL Et_2O. The combined organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated in

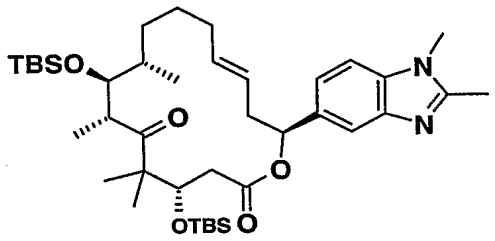
vacuum. Purification by flash column chromatography (Hexane/Acetone - 50/50 to 0/100) afforded **46** as an colourless oil.

ESI-MS: $M(C_{40}H_{70}N_2O_6Si_2) = 731.2$, $(M+H)^+ = 731.4$.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 50/50 : 0.46.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.30 (m, 2H), 5.45 (m, 1H), 5.35 (m, 1H), 4.80 (m, 1H), 4.40 (m, 1H), 3.80 (m, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.20 (m, 1H), 2.65 (s, 3H), 2.45 (m, 2H), 2.35 (m, 2H), 1.98 (m, 2H), 1.40 (m, 4H), 1.20 (s, 3H), 1.10 (s, 3H), 1.05 (d, 3H), 0.95 (d, 3H), 0.94 (s, 18H), 0.09 (s, 3H), 0.07 (s, 3H), 0.04 (s, 3H), 0.02 (s, 3H).

(11c) - Compound **47** : (*E*)-(4S,7R,8S,9S,16S)-4,8-Bis-(tert-butyl-dimethyl-silanyloxy) -16-(1,2-dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-oxacyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione.



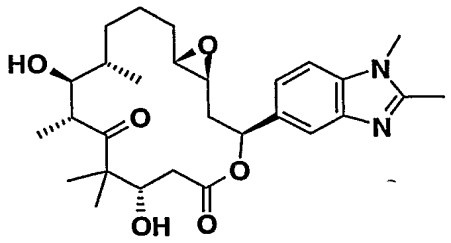
To a solution of **46** (345 mg, 0.471 mmol) in 12 mL THF at 0°C is added triethylamine (0.395 mL, 2.831 mmol) followed by trichlorobenzoylchloride (0.37 mL, 2.359 mmol). After stirring for 20 min at rt, the solution is diluted with 20 mL dry toluene and the resulting solution is added slowly in 2 h to a previously prepared solution of DMAP (0.575 g, 4.718 mmol) in 300 mL toluene. The reaction mixture is stirred at rt for 30 min and then concentrated in vacuum. The crude product is purified by flash column chromatography (Hexane/Acetone - 90/10 to 70/30) to afford **47** as colourless oil.

ESI-MS: $M(C_{40}H_{68}N_2O_5Si_2) = 713.2$, $(M)^+ = 713.4$.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 30/70 : 0.56.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 7.62 (s, 1H), 7.26 (m, 2H), 5.87 (m, 1H), 5.52 (m, 1H), 5.37 (m, 1H), 4.40 (m, 1H), 3.97 (m, 1H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.17 (m, 1H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.60 (m, 2H), 2.55 (m, 2H), 1.92 (m, 2H), 1.45 (m, 4H), 1.20 (s, 3H), 1.10 (s, 3H), 1.05 (d, 3H), 0.95 (d, 3H), 0.94 (s, 9H), 0.84 (s, 9H), 0.11 (s, 3H), 0.09 (s, 3H), 0.04 (s, 3H), 0.01 (s, 3H).

Example 12 - (1S,3S,7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-7,11-dihydroxy-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxa-bicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione (**49**).



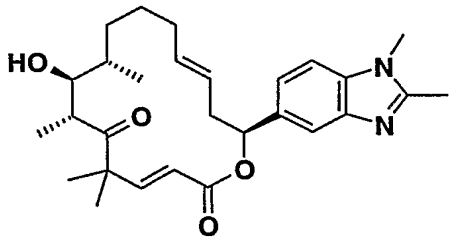
To a solution of **48** (24 mg, 0.0495 mmol) in 0.75 mL CH_3CN/DMM - 1/1 at rt were added successively 0.46 mL of a buffer solution ($Na_2B_4O_7.10\ H_2O$ [0.05M] in Na_2EDTA [4.10^{-4}M]), $Bu_4N(HSO_4)$ (0.67 mg, 0.0019 mmol) and fructose-derived ketone (10.2 mg, 0.0396 mmol). The reaction mixture is cooled to 0°C and were added separately, in a same time over 1h30, Oxone® (42.6 mg, 0.089 mmol) in 0.6 mL Na_2EDTA and K_2CO_3 (39.7 mg, 0.287 mmol) in 0.6 mL H_2O. The solution is stirred 1h30 at 0°C and then is quenched with H_2O, extracted 3 times with 10 mL AcOEt. The combined organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated in vacuum. Purification by flash column chromatography (Hexane/Acetone/MeOH - 50/45/5) afforded **49** in a 8/1 ratio as white crystals.

ESI-MS: $M(C_{28}H_{40}N_2O_6) = 500.6$, $(M+H)^+ = 501.2$.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 30/70 : 0.17.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CD_3OD): δ = 7.62 (s, 1H), 7.41 (d, 1H), 7.35 (d, 1H), 6.05 (dd, 1H), 4.23 (dd, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.72 (dd, 1H), 3.45 (m, 1H), 2.68 (m, 2H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.49 (m, 2H), 2.20 (m, 1H), 2.00 (m, 1H), 1.90 (m, 2H), 1.40 (m, 2H), 1.30 (s, 3H), 1.20 (d, 3H), 1.02 (s, 3H), 1.00 (d, 3H).

Example 13 - (3*E*,13*E*)-(7R,8S,9S,16S)-16-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-8-hydroxy-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-oxacyclohexadeca-3,13-diene-2,6-dione (**55**).



To a solution of **54** (12 mg, 0.0206 mmol) in 1 mL CH_3CN and in a Teflon tube is added at rt 0.2 mL of HF.Pyridine (70/30) and the reaction mixture is stirred 6h at rt. The reaction mixture is washed with a 5% solution of $NaHCO_3$, extracted 3 times with 10 mL AcOEt and

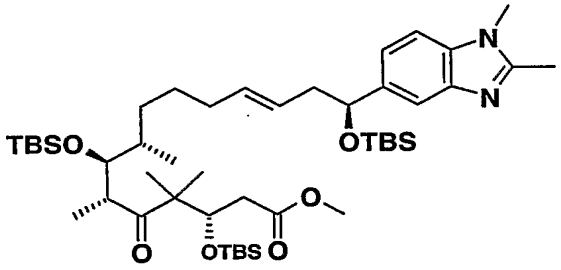
then the organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$). Purification by flash column chromatography (CH_2Cl_2/MeOH - 98/2) afforded **55** as white crystals.

ESI-MS: $M(C_{28}H_{38}N_2O_4)$ = 466.6, $(M+H)^+$ = 467.1.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 50/50 : 0.18.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 7.71 (s, 1H), 7.20 (s, 2H), 6.91 (d, 1H), 6.15 (m, 1H), 6.01 (d, 1H), 5.45 (m, 2H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.60 (m, 1H), 3.18 (m, 1H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.17 (m, 2H), 1.97 (m, 2H), 1.60 (m, 2H), 1.40 (m, 2H), 1.34 (s, 3H), 1.18 (s, 3H), 1.15 (d, 3H), 0.95 (d, 3H).

(13a) - Compound **50** :



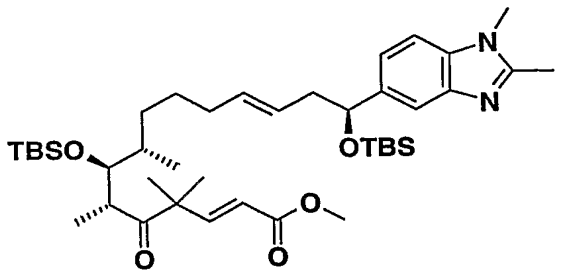
To a 0.5M solution of 9-BBN in 3 mL THF (2.2 mL, 1.095 mmol) is added dropwise **39** (0.28 g, 0.526 mmol) in 2 mL THF at rt. After 2h TLC analysis revealed the complete consumption of the starting olefin. In a separate flask, containing **31** (0.2 g, 0.438 mmol) in 3 mL DMF were added successively, Cs_2CO_3 (0.28 g, 0.876 mmol), $AsPh_3$ (27 mg, 0.087 mmol), $Pd(dppf)_2Cl_2$ (64 mg, 0.087 mmol) and H_2O (0.24 mL, 13.143 mmol). In first solution is added H_2O (80 µL, 4.381 mmol) to quench the excess 9-BBN and the alkyl borane solution is added rapidly by syringe to the solution containing **31**. The reaction mixture is stirred overnight at rt and quenched with H_2O, extracted 3 times with 25 mL Et_2O. The combined organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated in vacuum. Purification by flash column chromatography (CH_2Cl_2 - 100 then Hexane/Acetone - 70/30) afforded **50**.

ESI-MS: $M(C_{47}H_{86}N_2O_6Si_3)$ = 859.4, $(M+)^+$ = 899.1.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 50/50 : 0.70.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.28 (m, 2H), 5.40 (m, 2H), 4.75 (m, 1H), 4.40 (m, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.79 (m, 1H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 3.17 (m, 1H), 2.70 (s, 3H), 2.40 (m, 2H), 2.35 (m, 2H), 1.95 (m, 2H), 1.80 (m, 2H), 1.50 (m, 2H), 1.20 (s, 3H), 1.10 (s, 3H), 1.07 (d, 3H), 0.91 (s, 9H), 0.90 (d, 3H), 0.88 (s, 18H), 0.10 (s, 3H), 0.05 (s, 6H), 0.03 (s, 6H), -0.18 (s, 3H).

(13b) - Compound **51** :



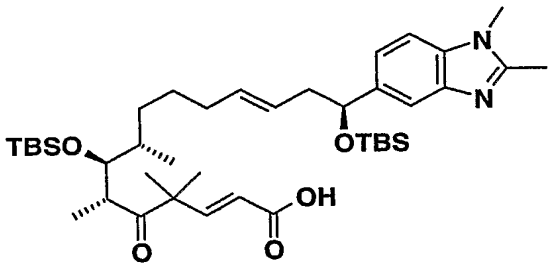
To a solution of **50** (250 mg, 0.291 mmol) in 6 mL THF under argon is added a 1M solution of TBAF (0.87 mL, 0.873 mmol) and the reaction mixture is stirred 8h at rt. The solution is washed with a 5% solution of $NaHCO_3$ and extracted 3 times with 25 mL Et_2O. The combined organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated in vacuum. Purification by flash column chromatography (Hexane/Acetone - 90/10 to 50/50) afforded **51** as a colourless oil.

ESI-MS: $M(C_{41}H_{70}N_2O_5Si_2) = 727.2$, $(M+H)^+ = 729.3$.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 50/50 : 0.46.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.21 (m, 2H), 7.06 (d, 1H), 5.90 (d, 1H), 5.40 (m, 2H), 4.72 (m, 1H), 3.80 (m, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.05 (m, 1H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.40 (m, 2H), 1.92 (m, 2H), 1.30 (m, 2H), 1.29 (s, 3H), 1.28 (s, 3H), 1.05 (d, 3H), 0.89 (s, 9H), 0.88 (d, 3H), 0.88 (s, 9H), 0.05 (s, 3H), 0.04 (s, 6H), 0.02 (s, 6H), -0.18 (s, 3H).

(13c) - Compound **52** :



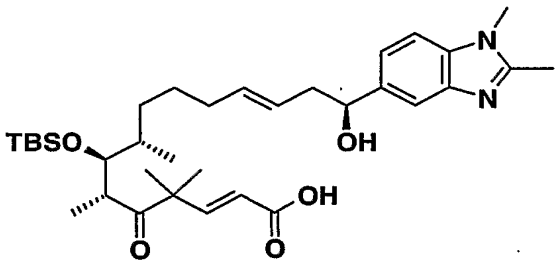
To a solution of **51** (50 mg, 0.0687 mmol) in 2 mL THF/H_2O - 7/1 is added LiOH (10 mg, 0.412 mmol) and the mixture is stirred 25h at rt. The solution is quenched with a 2% solution of $KHSO_4$ (until pH-5) extracted 3 times with 10 mL AcOEt. The combined organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated in vacuum. Purification by flash column chromatography (Hexane/Acetone - 90/10 to 50/50) afforded **52** as colourless oil.

ESI-MS: $M(C_{40}H_{68}N_2O_5Si_2) = 713.1$, $(M+H)^+ = 713.3$.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 50/50 : 0.37.

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, CD_3OD): δ = 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.52 (d, 1H), 7.38 (d, 1H), 7.04 (d, 1H), 5.90 (d, 1H), 5.40 (m, 2H), 4.82 (m, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.80 (m, 1H), 3.05 (m, 1H), 2.63 (s, 3H), 2.40 (m, 2H), 1.92 (m, 2H), 1.30 (m, 2H), 1.29 (s, 3H), 1.25 (s, 3H), 1.05 (d, 3H), 0.89 (s, 9H), 0.88 (d, 3H), 0.88 (s, 9H), 0.05 (s, 6H), 0.04 (s, 3H), -0.16 (s, 3H).

(13d) - Compound **53** :



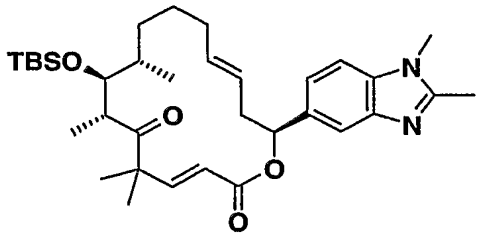
To a solution of **52** (30 mg, 0.042 mmol) in 2 mL THF under argon is added a 1M solution of TBAF (0.25 mL, 0.252 mmol) and the reaction mixture is stirred 24h at rt. The solution is washed with a 5% solution of $NaHCO_3$ and extracted 3 times with 25 mL AcOEt. The combined organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated in vacuum. Purification by flash column chromatography (CH_2Cl_2/MeOH - 95/5) afforded **53**, as an oil.

ESI-MS: M($C_{34}H_{54}N_2O_5Si$) = 598.9, $(M+H)^+$ = 599.2.

Rf : CH_2Cl_2/MeOH - 90/10 : 0.29.

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, CD_3OD): δ = 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.41 (d, 1H), 7.28 (d, 1H), 6.95 (d, 1H), 5.91 (d, 1H), 5.40 (m, 2H), 4.75 (m, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.80 (m, 1H), 3.15 (m, 1H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.45 (m, 2H), 1.92 (m, 2H), 1.40 (m, 2H), 1.27 (s, 3H), 1.24 (s, 3H), 1.03 (d, 3H), 0.89 (s, 9H), 0.85 (d, 3H), 0.05 (s, 6H).

(13e) - Compound **54** : (3E,13E)-(7R,8S,9S,16S)-8-(tert-Butyl-dimethyl-silanyloxy)-16-(1,2-dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-oxacyclohexadeca-3,13-diene-2,6-dione.



To a solution of **53** (20 mg, 0.033 mmol) in 2 mL THF at 0°C is added triethylamine (28 µL, 0.20 mmol) followed by trichlorobenzoylchloride (26 µL, 0.167 mmol). After stirring for 20 min

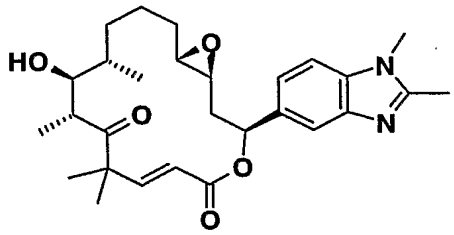
at rt, the solution is diluted with 5 mL dry toluene and the resulting solution is added slowly in 1 h to a previously prepared solution of DMAP (41 mg, 0.334 mmol) in 20 mL toluene. The reaction mixture is stirred at rt for 30 min and then concentrated in vacuum. The crude product is purified by flash column chromatography (CH_2Cl_2/MeOH - 98/2) to afford **54** as white crystals.

ESI-MS: M($C_{34}H_{52}N_2O_4Si$) = 580.9, $(M+H)^+$ = 581.2.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 50/50 : 0.37.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 7.71 (s, 1H), 7.25 (s, 2H), 6.88 (d, 1H), 6.20 (m, 1H), 6.05 (d, 1H), 5.50 (m, 2H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.70 (m, 1H), 3.08 (m, 1H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.18 (m, 2H), 1.98 (m, 2H), 1.60 (m, 2H), 1.40 (m, 2H), 1.29 (s, 3H), 1.20 (s, 3H), 1.10 (d, 3H), 0.95 (d, 3H), 0.84 (s, 9H), 0.05 (s, 3H), 0.04 (s, 3H).

Example 14 - (*E*)-(1S,3S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-11-hydroxy-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxa-bicyclo[14.1.0]heptadec-6-ene-5,9-dione (**56**).



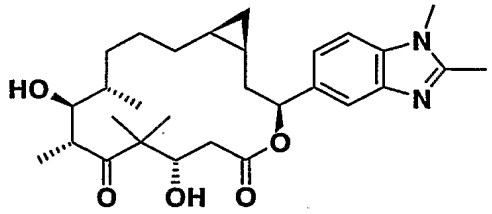
To a solution of **55** (40 mg, 0.0857 mmol) in 1.3 mL CH_3CN/DMM - 1/1 at rt were added successively 0.8 mL of a buffer solution ($Na_2B_4O_7$.10 H_2O [0.05M] in Na_2EDTA [4.10^{-4}M]), $Bu_4N(HSO_4)$ (1.2 mg, 0.003 mmol) and fructose-derived ketone (17.7 mg, 0.0685 mmol). The reaction mixture is cooled to 0°C and were added separately, in a same time over 1h30, Oxone® (73.8 mg, 0.120 mmol) in 1 mL Na_2EDTA and K_2CO_3 (68.7 mg, 0.497 mmol) in 1 mL H_2O. The solution is stirred 3h at 0°C and then is quenched with H_2O, extracted 3 times with 10 mL AcOEt. The combined organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated in vacuum. Purification of crude product by prep-HPLC afforded **56**, 50% conversion in a 8/1 ratio.

ESI-MS: M($C_{28}H_{38}N_2O_5$) = 482.6, $(M+H)^+$ = 483.2.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 30/70 : 0.23.

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 7.72 (s, 1H), 7.27 (s, 2H), 6.91 (d, 1H), 6.37 (d, 1H), 6.05 (d, 1H), 3.80 (m, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.19 (m, 1H), 2.90 (m, 2H), 2.61 (s, 3H), 2.58 (m, 2H), 1.97 (m, 4H), 1.60 (m, 2H), 1.40 (m, 2H), 1.43 (s, 3H), 1.20 (s, 3H), 1.18 (d, 3H), 1.01 (d, 3H).

Example 15 : 3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-7,11-dihydroxy-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4-oxa-bicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione (compound **64**).



To a 50 ml plastic tube, equipped with a magnetic stir bar, are successively added **63** (60 mg), 5 ml of acetonitrile. To this solution is rapidly added HF-Pyridine complex (1 ml). The reaction is monitored by TLC (CH_2Cl_2/MeOH: 95/5) and the mixture is stirred at room temperature for 5h. The reaction mixture is then carefully added dropwise to an Erlenmeyer containing methylene chloride (30 ml), distilled water (30 ml) and sodium bicarbonate (5 g). The two layers are separated by decantation and the aqueous phase is extracted three times with methylene chloride (20 ml). After drying with magnesium sulfate, the solvents are removed under vacuo and the crude mixture is purified by flash chromatography (CH_2Cl_2/MeOH : 95/5) followed by preparative HPLC to finally give the pure diastereoisomer **64**, as a white powder.

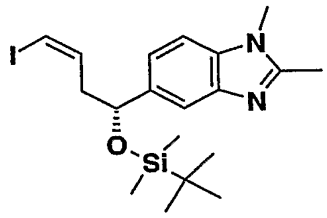
ESI-MS : 499.1 $(M+H)^+$.

HPLC : Rt=7.02 min (method 1).

Rf=0.25 (CH_2Cl_2/MeOH : 95/5)

^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6/ppm): 7.50 (s, 1H), 7.37 (d, 8 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d, 8 Hz, 1H), 5.75 (dd, 3,9 Hz, 1H), 5.08 (d, 6 Hz, 1H), 4.42 (d, 6 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (m, 1H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.53 (m, 1H), 3.12 (m, 1H), 2.55-2.30 (m, 2H), 2.50 (s, 3H), 2.03 (A of ABX, 1H), 1.75 (B of ABX, 1H), 1.52-1.13 (m, 7H), 1.21 (s, 3H), 1.05 (d, 6 Hz, 3H), 0.95 (s, 3H), 0.93 (d, 3H), 0.90 (m, 1H), 0.70 (m, 1H), 0.57 (m, 1H), -0.32 (m, 1H).

(15a)-compound **58** :



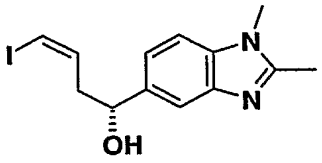
Sodium bis(trimethylsilyl)-amide (3.6 ml of a 1M THF solution) is slowly added at room temperature to a suspension of the finely crushed iodomethyl-triphenylphosphonium iodide salt (2.0 g) in 10 ml THF. The solution becomes quickly orange. After the end of the addition (~10 min), the mixture is cooled down to -78°C and the aldehyde **57** (1.0 g) in of THF (5 ml) is added dropwise. After 60 min stirring at -78°C, the reaction is quenched by the addition of a saturated solution of Ammonium chloride (20 ml) under vigorous stirring. The mixture is then allowed to warm up to room temperature and CH_2Cl_2 is added (50 ml). The two layers are separated by decantation and the aqueous phase is extracted twice with CH_2Cl_2 (20 ml). After drying of the joined organic phases with magnesium sulfate and evaporation of the solvents under vacuo, the residue is taken in hexane (20 ml) in order to precipitate the triphenylphosphine oxide. The precipitate is filtered off and washed with hexane (2 ml) and the filtrate is kept at 4°C overnight to complete the precipitation of the triphenylphosphine oxide. The solvent is removed under vacuo and the crude is purified by Flash chromatography (EtOAc) to yield **58** as a clear oil.

ESI-MS : 456.9 $(M+H)^+$.

Rf=0.54 (CH_2Cl_2/MeOH : 90/10).

^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$/ppm): 7.75 (s, 1H), 7.23 (m, 2H), 6.22 (m, 2H), 4.91 (m, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 2.67-2.49 (m, 2H), 2.63 (s, 3H), 0.90 (s, 9H), 0.05 (s, 3H). -0.10 (s, 3H).

(15b)-compound **59** :



Camphorsulfonic acid (1.87g) is added carefully (~10 installments) in a solution of **58** (914 mg) in CH_2Cl_2 (50 ml) and methanol (50 ml) at 0°C. The mixture is then allowed to warm up to room temperature and is stirred for 17 h. The mixture is then carefully poured in an Erlenmeyer containing distilled water (150 ml) and sodium bicarbonate (1.34 g) under vigorous stirring. The layers are separated and the aqueous phase is extracted three times

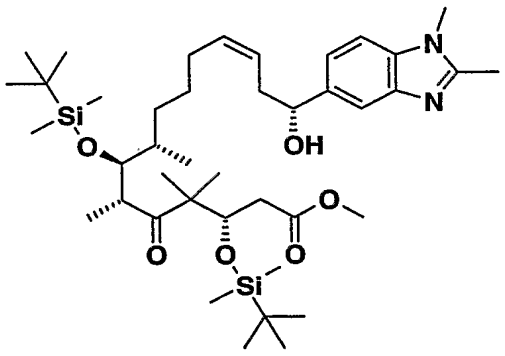
with CH_2Cl_2 (50 ml). The organic phases are joined, dried over sodium sulfate and the solvents are removed under vacuo. The crude is purified by flash chromatography (CH_2Cl_2 /MeOH : 95/5) in order to give **59**, a white solid.

ESI-MS : 343.0 $(M+H)^+$.

Rf=0.35 (CH_2Cl_2/MeOH : 90/10).

^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$/ppm): 7.66 (s, 1H), 7.29 (m, 2H), 6.29 (m, 2H), 4.97 (m, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 2.78-2.62 (m, 2H), 2.62 (s, 3H).

(15c)-compound **60** :



Flask A : To a solution of **39** (1.16g) in 20 ml THF is added 9-BBN (8.8 ml of a 0.5M solution in THF) drop wise at 0°C. After the end of the addition, the ice bath is removed and the reaction mixture is allowed to warm up to room temperature. The reaction is monitored by TLC and is complete after 120 minutes. The excess of 9-BBN is quenched by addition of 200 µl of distilled water.

Flask B : In a 100 ml three-necked round bottomed flask, are successively added the vinyl iodide **59** (600 mg) and 20 ml of DMF. The solution is cooled down to 0°C and Cesium carbonate (1.19 g), triphenylarsine (107 mg), the Palladium catalyst (297 mg) and distilled water (880 µl) are successively added. The content of Flask A is then rapidly added (30 sec) under vigorous stirring. After 10 minutes at 0°C, the ice bath is removed and the reaction

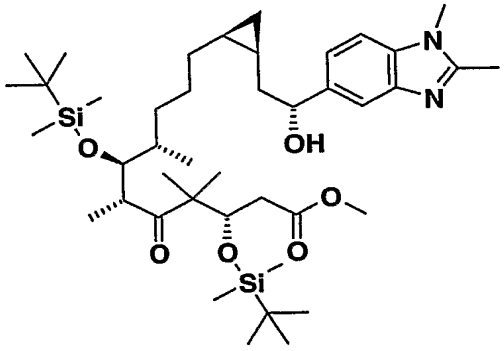
mixture is allowed to warm up to room temperature. The reaction is monitored by MS and is complete after. The mixture is then poured in an Erlenmeyer containing 300 ml of diethyl ether and 300 ml of a saturated aqueous ammonium chloride. The two layers are separated by decantation and the aqueous phase is extracted twice with 200 ml of diethyl ether. The organic phases are joined and dried with magnesium sulfate. Evaporation of the solvents under vacuo yielded a brown oil which is purified by flash chromatography (Hexanes/Acetone : 80/20 to 60/40) to finally yield **60** as a thick yellow oil.

ESI-MS : 745.2 $(M+H)^+$.

Rf=0.45 (CH_2Cl_2/MeOH : 90/10).

^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$/ppm): 7.64 (s, 1H), 7.26 (m, 2H), 5.53 (m, 1H), 5.40 (m, 1H), 4.83 (m, 1H), 4.40 (dd, 1H), 3.77 (dd, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.14 (m, 1H), 2.71-2.48 (m, 2H), 2.63 (s, 3H), 2.45 (A of ABX, 1H), 2.29 (B of ABX, 1H), 2.05 (m, 2H), 1.46-1.0 (m, 5 H), 1.25 (s, 3H), 1.08 (s, 3H), 1.05 (d, 7Hz, 3H), 0.92 (s, 9H), 0.89 (d, 3H), 0.88 (s, 9H), 0.10 (s, 3H), 0.06 (s, 6H), 0.02 (s, 3H).

(15d)-compound **61** :



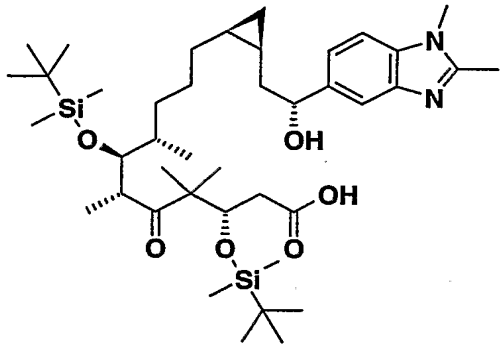
To a solution of Et_2Zn (3 ml of a 1.0M solution in hexane) in CH_2Cl_2 (6 ml), is slowly added (15 min) , at -10 °C, a solution of TFA (228 µl) in CH_2Cl_2 (3 ml). The reaction mixture is stirred for another 15 minutes and a solution of diiodomethane (240 µl) in CH_2Cl_2 (3 ml) is added. After stirring for 30 minutes, **60** (250 mg) in CH_2Cl_2 (3 ml) is added drop wise and the mixture is stirred at -10 °C for another 30 minutes. The reaction is then quenched by addition of a aqueous saturated ammonium chloride solution (15 ml). The two layers are separated by decantation and the aqueous phase is extracted three times with CH_2Cl_2 . The organic phases are joined, dried over $MgSO_4$ and the solvents are evaporated. The crude is then purified by flash chromatography (CH_2Cl_2 /MeOH : 95/5) to give **61**, as a white foam.

ESI-MS : 759.3 $(M+H)^+$.

Rf=0.45 (CH_2Cl_2/MeOH : 90/10).

^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, C_6D_6/ppm): 8.04 (s, 1H), 7.43 (d, 5 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (d, 5 Hz, 1H), 4.89 (m, 1H), 4.63 (dd, 1H), 3.98 (dd, 1H), 3.33 (s, 3H), 3.19 (m, 1H), 2.62 (s, 3H), 2.58 (A of ABX, 1H), 2.31 (B of ABX, 1H), 2.10-2.0 (m, 1H), 2.05 (s, 3H), 1.78 (m, 1H), 1.62-1.0 (m, 9 H), 1.14 (d, 7Hz, 3H), 1.12 (s, 3H), 1.11 (s, 3H), 1.04 (s, 9H), 1.02 (d, 3H), 0.96 (s, 9H), 0.81 (m, 1H), 0.62 (m, 2H), 0.17 (s, 3H), 0.15 (s, 3H), 0.14 (s, 3H), 0.12 (s, 3H), -0.15 (m, 1H).

(15e)-compound **62** :



Lithium hydroxide (77 mg) is added to a solution of **61** (400 mg) in a mixture of isopropanol (12 ml) and water (3 ml). The reaction mixture is then warmed up to 60°C and stirred for 2h. The mixture is then poured into an Erlenmeyer containing 30 ml of CH_2Cl_2 and 30 ml of water. The mixture is then acidified to pH 5 by a slow addition of Hydrochloric acid 1M under vigorous stirring (pH meter). The two layers are separated by decantation and the aqueous phase is extracted three times with 30 ml of CH_2Cl_2. The organic phases are joined and after drying with magnesium sulfate, removing of the solvents under vacuo, the crude is purified by flash chromatography (CH_2Cl_2/Methanol : 90/10) to yield **62** ,as a white foam.

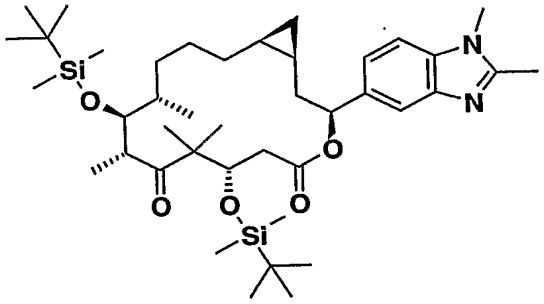
ESI-MS : 745.2 $(M+H)^+$.

Rf=0.22 (CH_2Cl_2/MeOH : 94/6).

^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, CD_3OD/ppm): 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.42 (A of AB, 1H), 7.32 (B of AB, 1H), 4.74 (m, 1H), 4.34 (m, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.75 (m, 1H), 3.22 (m, 1H), 2.63 (bs, 3H), 2.45 (A of ABX,

1H), 2.18 (B of ABX, 1H), 1.81 (m, 1H), 1.66 (m, 1H), 1.53-0.78 (m, 19H), 0.92 (s, 9H), 0.84 (s, 9H), 0.78-0.59 (m, 3H), 0.08 (s, 3H), 0.07 (s, 6H), 0.02 (bs, 3H), -0.16 (m, 1H).

(15f)-compound **63** :



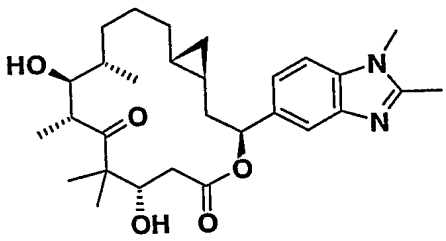
To a solution of **62** (160 mg) and triphenylphosphine (207 mg) in toluene (30 ml) is slowly added, at -13°C (ice/ethanol bath) over a period of one hour, a solution of DIAD (105 µl). The reaction is quenched by addition of MeOH (3 ml) and the solvents are evaporated under vacuo. The crude mixture is then purified by flash chromatography (hexane/acetone : 70/30 to 50/50 with 1% of Et_3N) to yield **63**, as a white foam .

ESI-MS : 727.2 $(M+H)^+$.

Rf=0.45 (Hex/acetone : 50/50).

^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$/ppm): 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.24 (m, 2H), 5.72 (dd, 3,7 Hz, 1H), 3.99 (m, 1H), 3.89 (d, 7 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.02 (m, 1H), 2.80-2.51 (m, 2H), 2.59 (s, 3H), 2.17 (m, 1H), 1.78-0.74 (m, 9H), 1.27 (s, 3H), 1.13 (s, 3H), 1.09 (d, 7Hz, 3H), 1.0 (d, 7 Hz, 3H), 0.97 (s, 9H), 0.89 (s, 9H), 0.71-0.58 (m, 3H), 0.13 (s, 6H), 0.09 (s, 3H), 0.04 (s, 3H), -0.32 (m, 1H).

Example 16 - (1S,3S,7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-7,11-dihydroxy-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4-oxa-bicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione (**73**).



To a solution of **72** (70 mg, 0.096 mmol) in 4 mL CH_3CN and in a Teflon tube is added at rt 1 mL of HF.Pyridine (70/30) and the reaction mixture is stirred 2h at rt. The reaction mixture is washed with a 5% solution of $NaHCO_3$ (pH-5), extracted 3 times with 15 mL AcOEt and then

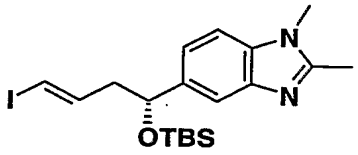
the organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$). Crude product is purified by prep-HPLC to afford pure **73** as white crystals.

ESI-MS: $M(C_{29}H_{42}N_2O_5) = 498.6$, $(M+H)^+ = 499.2$.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 50/50 : 0.19.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CD_3OD): δ = 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.38 (m, 1H), 7.28 (m, 1H), 5.97 (m, 1H), 4.30 (m, 1H), 3.92 (m, 1H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.30 (m, 1H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.42 (m, 1H), 2.10 (m, 1H), 1.60 (m, 2H), 1.40 (m, 1H), 1.37 (s, 3H), 1.20 (d, 3H), 1.01 (s, 3H), 0.99 (d, 3H), 0.80 (m, 1H), 0.60 (m, 1H), 0.22 (m, 2H).

(16a) - Compound **65** :



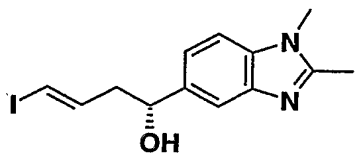
To a solution of $CrCl_2$ (3.0 g, 24.06 mmol) in 10 mL THF at rt, is added dropwise over 30 min a mixture of **57** (1.0 g, 3.0 mmol) and CHI_3 (2.4 g, 6.0 mmol) in 60 mL of Dioxane. The reaction mixture is stirred 3h at rt and quenched with 20 mL H_2O, extracted 3 times with 20 mL Et_2O and 3 times with 20 mL AcOEt. The combined organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated in vacuum. Purification by flash column chromatography (CH_2Cl_2/Acetone - 100/0 to 50/50) afforded **65** in a 5/1 ratio as yellowish oil.

ESI-MS: $M(C_{19}H_{29}N_2OSiI) = 456.4$, $(M+H)^+ = 456.9$.

Rf: Acetone - 100 : 0.50.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.20 (m, 2H), 6.52 (m, 1H), 6.00 (dt, 1H), 4.80 (m, 1H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 2.80 (s, 3H), 2.40 (m, 2H), 0.90 (s, 9H), 0.05 (s, 3H), -0.17 (s, 3H).

(16b) - Compound **66** :



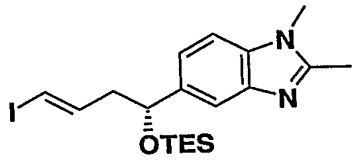
To a solution of **65** (0.74 g, 1.621 mmol) in 75 mL of a CH_2Cl_2/MeOH -1/1 solution, is added CSA (1.5 g, 6.485 mmol) and the reaction mixture is stirred 2 days at rt. The mixture is quenched with $NaHCO_3$ (5%) solution until pH-7 and extracted 3 times with 25 mL AcOEt. The combined organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated in vacuum. Purification by flash column chromatography (CH_2Cl_2/MeOH - 100/0 to 90/10) afforded **66**. Crystallization in CH_2Cl_2/Hexane - 1/1 with 3 drops of MeOH afforded pure diastereoisomer as white crystals.

ESI-MS: M($C_{13}H_{15}N_2OI$) = 342.1, $(M+H)^+$ = 342.9.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 50/50 : 0.25.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 7.61 (s, 1H), 7.22 (m, 2H), 6.55 (m, 1H), 6.15 (d, 1H), 4.85 (m, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 2.61 (s, 3H), 2.55 (m, 2H).

(16c) - Compound **67** :



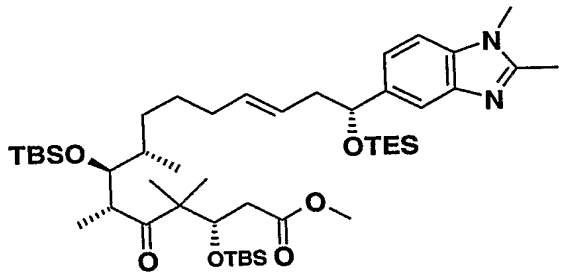
To a solution of **66** (0.28 g, 0.818 mmol) in 12 mL CH_2Cl_2 at 0°C is added dropwise 2,6-lutidine (0.285 mL, 2.455 mmol) followed by TESOTf (0.37 mL, 1.636 mmol). The mixture is stirred 1h at 0°C and then is quenched with a saturated solution of NH_4Cl, extracted 3 times with 25 mL AcOEt. The combined organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated in vacuum. Purification by flash column chromatography (Hexane/Acetone - 80/20 to 50/50) afforded **67** as white crystals.

ESI-MS: M($C_{19}H_{29}N_2OSiI$) = 456.4, $(M+H)^+$ = 456.9.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 50/50 : 0.67.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.20 (m, 2H), 6.50 (m, 1H), 6.00 (dt, 1H), 4.80 (m, 1H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 2.80 (s, 3H), 2.40 (m, 2H), 0.94 (t, 9H), 0.50 (q, 6H).

(16d) - Compound **68** :



To a 0.5M solution of 9-BBN in 4 mL THF (3.3 mL, 1.643 mmol) is added dropwise **39** (0.417 g, 0.657 mmol) in 5 mL THF at rt. After 2h TLC analysis revealed the complete consumption of the starting olefin. In a separate flask, containing **67** (0.3 g, 0.657 mmol) in 10 mL DMF were added successively, Cs_2CO_3 (0.428 g, 1.314 mmol), $AsPh_3$ (40 mg, 0.131 mmol), $Pd(dppf)_2Cl_2$ (96 mg, 0.131 mmol) and H_2O (0.355 mL, 19.717 mmol). In first solution is added H_2O (118 µL, 6.572 mmol) to quench the excess 9-BBN and the alkyl borane solution is added rapidly by syringe to the solution containing **67**. The reaction mixture is stirred 2h at

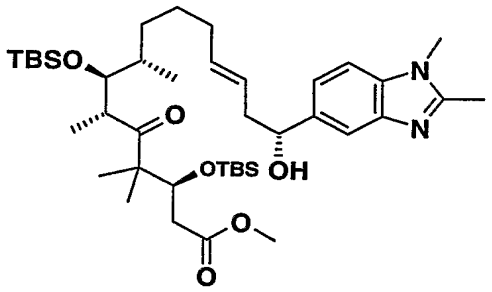
rt and quenched with H_2O, extracted 3 times with 25 mL AcOEt. The combined organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated in vacuum. Purification by flash column chromatography (Hexane/Acetone - 90/10 to 70/30) afforded **68** as colourless oil.

ESI-MS: $M(C_{47}H_{86}N_2O_6Si_3)$ = 859.5, $(M+H)^+$ = 859.2.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 50/50 : 0.73.

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.20 (m, 2H), 5.40 (m, 2H), 4.73 (m, 1H), 4.40 (m, 1H), 3.78 (m, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 3.17 (m, 1H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.40 (m, 2H), 2.35 (m, 2H), 1.95 (m, 2H), 1.30 (m, 4H), 1.20 (s, 3H), 1.05 (s, 3H), 1.03 (d, 3H), 0.91 (d, 3H), 0.90 (s, 18H), 0.90 (t, 9H), 0.50 (q, 6H), 0.12 (s, 3H), 0.05 (s, 6H), 0.03 (s, 3H).

(16e) - Compound **69** :



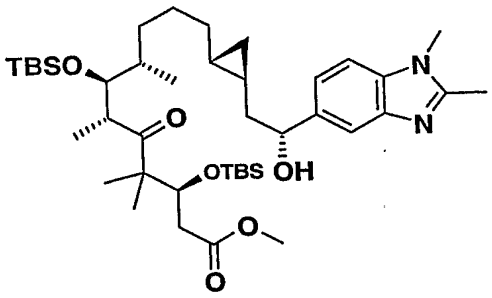
To a solution of **68** (0.325 g, 0.378 mmol) in 10 mL THF at rt is added a mixture TBAF/AcOH - 1/1 (2.27 mL, 2.269 mmol) and the reaction is stirred 5h at rt. The solvent is removed under vacuum and the crude product is purified by flash column chromatography (Hexane/Acetone/MeOH - 50/45/5) to afford **69**.

ESI-MS: $M(C_{41}H_{72}N_2O_6Si_2)$ = 745.2, $(M+H)^+$ = 745.2.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 50/50 : 0.52.

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 7.62 (s, 1H), 7.22 (m, 2H), 5.58 (m, 1H), 5.41 (m, 1H), 4.80 (m, 1H), 4.40 (m, 1H), 3.78 (m, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 3.17 (m, 1H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.45 (m, 2H), 2.30 (m, 2H), 2.00 (m, 2H), 1.40 (m, 4H), 1.21 (s, 3H), 1.07 (s, 3H), 1.05 (d, 3H), 0.92 (d, 3H), 0.91 (s, 18H), 0.11 (s, 3H), 0.05 (s, 6H), 0.02 (s, 3H).

(16f) - Compound **70** :



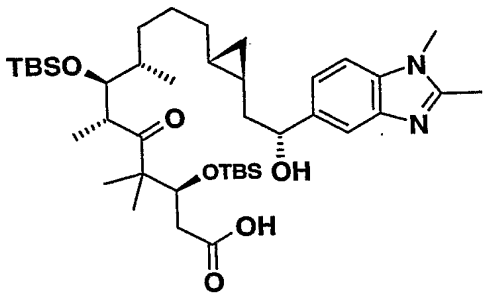
To a 1M solution of Et_2Zn (3.38 mL, 3.38 mmol) in 5 mL CH_2Cl_2 at -13°C, is added dropwise over 10 min TFA (0.259 mL, 3.38 mmol) in 2 mL CH_2Cl_2. The reaction mixture is stirred 15 min at -13°C and then CH_2I_2 (0.273 mL, 3.38 mmol) in 2 mL CH_2Cl_2 is added dropwise. After 30 min at -13°C, **69** (0.28 g, 0.375 mmol) in 2 mL CH_2Cl_2 is added dropwise. The reaction mixture is stirred 20 min and then is quenched with a saturated solution of NH_4Cl extracted 3 times with 20 mL CH_2Cl_2. The combined organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated in vacuum. Purification by flash column chromatography (Hexane/Acetone - 50/50) afforded **70** as colourless oil.

ESI-MS: $M(C_{42}H_{74}N_2O_6Si_2) = 759.2$, $(M+H)^+ = 759.2$.

Rf : Hexane/Acetone - 50/50 : 0.28.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CD_3OD): δ = 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.42 (d, 1H), 7.30 (d, 1H), 4.67 (m, 1H), 4.38 (m, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.77 (m, 1H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.30 (m, 1H), 3.20 (m, 1H), 2.70 (s, 3H), 2.45 (m, 1H), 2.25 (m, 1H), 1.60 (m, 2H), 1.40 (m, 4H), 1.22 (s, 3H), 1.07 (s, 3H), 1.05 (d, 3H), 0.92 (d, 3H), 0.91 (s, 18H), 0.32 (m, 2H), 0.15 (s, 3H), 0.08 (s, 3H), 0.05 (s, 3H), 0.02 (s, 3H).

(16g) - Compound **71** :



To a solution of **70** (0.22 g, 0.289 mmol) in 9 mL *i*-PrOH/H_2O - 4/1 is added LiOH (42 mg, 1.738 mmol) and the mixture is heated 3h at 60°C (out). After cooling to rt, the solution is quenched with a 2% solution of $KHSO_4$ (pH-5) extracted twice with 10 mL CH_2Cl_2 and twice

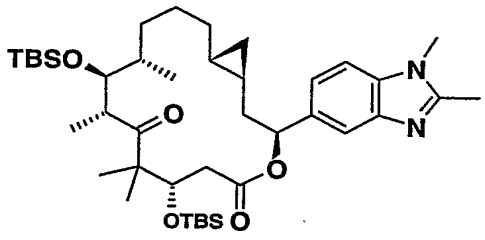
with 10 mL AcOEt. The combined organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated in vacuum. Purification by flash column chromatography (Hexane/Acetone/MeOH - 90/10/0 to 45/45/10) afforded **71** as an oil.

ESI-MS: $M(C_{41}H_{72}N_2O_6Si_2)$ = 745.2, $(M+H)^+$ = 745.2.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 50/50 : 0.23.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CD_3OD): δ = 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.42 (d, 1H), 7.30 (d, 1H), 4.79 (m, 1H), 4.38 (m, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.76 (m, 1H), 3.74 (m, 1H), 3.20 (m, 1H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.41 (m, 1H), 2.20 (m, 1H), 1.98 (m, 2H), 1.40 (m, 4H), 1.21 (s, 3H), 1.10 (s, 3H), 1.05 (d, 3H), 0.94 (d, 3H), 0.94 (s, 9H), 0.93 (s, 9H), 0.28 (m, 2H), 0.10 (s, 3H), 0.07 (s, 3H), 0.04 (s, 3H), 0.02 (s, 3H).

(16h) - Compound **72** : (1S,3S,7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Bis-(*t*-butyl-dimethyl-silanyloxy)-3-(1,2-dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4-oxa-bicyclo[14.1.0] heptadecane-5,9-dione.



To a solution of **71** (0.1 g, 0.134 mmol) in 25 mL toluene at -10°C is added PPH_3 (0.106 g, 0.402 mmol) followed by DIAD (52 µL, 0.268 mmol) in 8 mL toluene dropwise over 1h30. The reaction mixture is quenched with a saturated NH_4Cl solution and extracted 3 times with 20 mL AcOEt. The combined organic layers are dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated in vacuum. Purification by flash column chromatography (Hexane/Acetone - 50/50 to 0/100) afforded **72**, 70% conversion.

ESI-MS: $M(C_{41}H_{70}N_2O_5Si_2)$ = 727.2, $(M+H)^+$ = 727.2.

Rf: Hexane/Acetone - 50/50 : 0.53.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.22 (m, 2H), 5.88 (m, 1H), 4.10 (m, 1H), 3.92 (m, 1H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.18 (m, 1H), 2.80 (m, 2H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.00 (m, 2H), 1.60 (m, 2H), 1.40 (m, 4H), 1.25 (s, 3H), 1.24 (d, 3H), 1.15 (s, 3H), 1.13 (d, 3H), 0.98 (s, 9H), 0.84 (s, 9H), 0.20 (m, 2H), 0.10 (s, 3H), 0.09 (s, 3H), 0.08 (s, 3H), -0.05 (s, 3H).

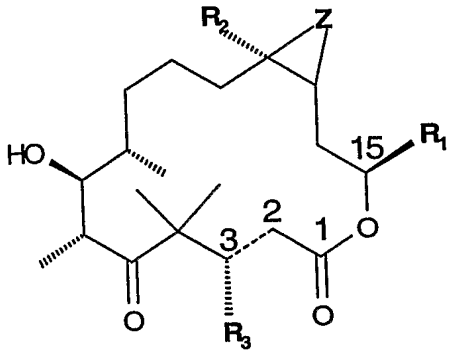
Example 17 - Proliferation inhibition (IC50) of epothilone derivatives (Examples 1- 16) towards KB-31 and KB-8511 cell lines. Method as described above.

	KB-31 [nmol l^{-1}]	KB-8511 [nmol l^{-1}]
Example 1	**106.0**	**75.4**
Example 2	**5.12**	**2.18**
Example 3	**54.9** 62.0	**50.4** 62.3
Example 4	**6.56** 7.95 7.65	**36.6** 39.2 37.1
Example 5	**2.57** 5.75	**2.64** 5.49
Example 6	<2 **0.536**	<2 **1.61**
Example 7	**39.1** 41.9	**50.2** 49.9
Example 8	**2.76**	**5.83**
Example 9	3.91 4.79	10.3 13.3

	2.07 3.7	**4.37** 10.5
Example 10	**0.588** 0.594 <2 0.596	**6.89** 6.15 3.25 6.83
Example 11	**2.57** 5.17 4.63	**25.1** 36.6 37
Example 12	0.27 0.24 **0.228**	1.45 1.67 **0.96**
Example 13	144.2 **137.7** 152.5	74.1 **68.8** 73.5
Example 14	5.0 **3.5**	12.4 **9.92**
Example 15	**0.467**	**1.01**
Example 16	**0.149**	**0.11**

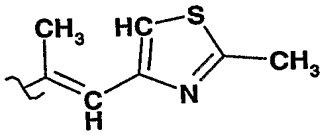
What is claimed is:

1. A compound of formula I

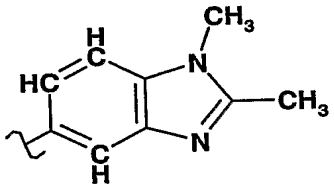


I

Wherein



and b)



;

R_1 is selected from a)

R_2 is lower alkyl or hydrogen

R_3 is OH or hydrogen;

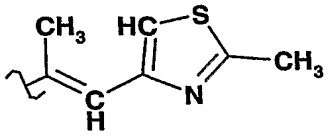
Z is O, C or -Z- is a bond between the two binding carbon atoms;

is a single or double bond between C2 and C3;

or salts thereof;

with the proviso that when R1 is a, R3 is hydrogen and that when R1 is b, Z is O or a bond, and R2 is methyl R3 is not OH.

2. A compound of formula I according to claim 1, wherein

R_1 is  ;

R_2 is lower alkyl preferably methyl

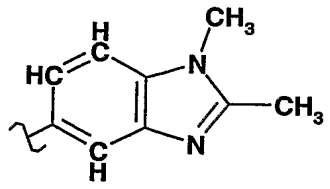
R_3 is hydrogen;

Z is O or -Z- is a bond between the two binding carbon atoms;

is a single bond;

or salts thereof.

3. A compound of formula I according to claim 1, wherein

R_1 is  ;

R_2 is lower alkyl or hydrogen

R_3 is OH or hydrogen;

Z is O, C or -Z- is a bond between the two binding carbon atoms;

 is a single or double bond;

or salts thereof;

with the proviso that when R2 is methyl and Z is O or a bond R3 is not OH.

4. A compound of formula I according to claim 1 selected from,

(*Z*)-(7R,8S,9S,16S)-8-Hydroxy-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-16-[(*E*)-1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-thiazol-4-yl)-vinyl]-oxacyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione;

(1S,3S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-11-Hydroxy-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-3-[(*E*)-1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-thiazol-4-yl)-vinyl]-4,17-dioxa-bicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione;

16-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-8-hydroxy-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-oxacyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione;

3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-11-hydroxy-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxa-bicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione;

(Z)-(7R,8S,9S,16S)-16-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-8-hydroxy-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-oxacyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione;

(1S,3S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-11-hydroxy-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxa-bicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione;

(*E*)-(7R,8S,9S,16S)-16-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-8-hydroxy -5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-oxacyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione;

(1S,3S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-11-hydroxy-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxa-bicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione;

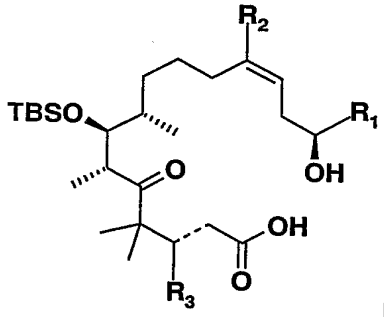
16-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-4,8-dihydroxy-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-oxacyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione;
3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-7,11-dihydroxy-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxa-bicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione;
(*E*)-(4S,7R,8S,9S,16S)-16-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-4,8-dihydroxy-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-oxacyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione;
(1S,3S,7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-7,11-dihydroxy-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxa-bicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione;
(3*E*,13*E*)-(7R,8S,9S,16S)-16-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-8-hydroxy-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-oxacyclohexadeca-3,13-diene-2,6-dione;
(*E*)-(1S,3S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-11-hydroxy-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxa-bicyclo[14.1.0]heptadec-6-ene-5,9-dione;
3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-7,11-dihydroxy-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4-oxa-bicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione;and
(1S,3S,7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-7,11-dihydroxy-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4-oxa-bicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione

5. A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a compound of formula I, or a salt thereof, provided that salt-forming groups are present, according to one of claims 1 to 4, and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers.

6. A compound of formula I according to one of claims 1 to 4, for use in a process for the diagnostic or therapeutic treatment of humans.

7. Use of a compound of formula I according to one of claims 1 to 4, for the preparation of a pharmaceutical product for the treatment of a tumour disease.

8. Process for the preparation of a compound of formula I according to claim 1, characterised in that a compound of formula I may be prepared by ring closure of a compound of formula III



III

followed by deprotection steps where necessary, wherein

R1, R2 and R3 have the meaning defined in claim 1.